

Rotary Club of South Bend — Scholarship Program

Overview

The Rotary Club of South Bend supports the educational aspirations of local high school seniors who have demonstrated perseverance, integrity, and service to others. Through the **South Bend Rotary Charitable Foundation**, the Club offers two annual scholarships:

1. Phoenix Scholarship

Purpose:

To recognize students who have overcome personal or educational obstacles to complete high school and who are pursuing a four-year college degree.

Awards:

- Two scholarships awarded annually
- \$2,500 per year, renewable up to 4 years (\$10,000 total maximum)

Eligibility:

- High school senior attending a public or private school living in South Bend
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Planning to attend an accredited four-year college or university
- Sons or daughters of Rotary members are not eligible

Expectations for Recipients:

- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA each academic year.
- Submit an official transcript annually to the Rotary Club of South Bend.

- Conduct oneself in a manner consistent with Rotary's motto: *Service Above Self*. The Rotary Club of South Bend reserves the right to rescind any scholarship award should this obligation not be met by the student.
- Participate fully in Rotary's mentoring program, including:
 - Responding to communication from your assigned mentor
 - Using your mentor as a resource for academic and personal success

Payment:

Funds are paid directly to the student's college or university account and may be used for tuition, fees, books, or other education-related expenses.

2. Dr. S. Bernard Vagner Health Sciences Scholarship

Purpose:

In honor of the legacy of Dr. S. Bernard Vagner, long-time Rotary member and the first African American surgeon in South Bend. This scholarship is to support students pursuing studies in medical or health sciences at an accredited four-year college or university.

Awards:

- One scholarship awarded annually
- \$2,500 per year, renewable up to 4 years (\$10,000 total maximum)

Eligibility:

- High school senior attending a public or private school living or attending school in South Bend
- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Planning to major in a health sciences or related field
- Sons or daughters of Rotary members are not eligible

Expectations for Recipients:

1. Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA each academic year.

2. Submit an official transcript annually to the Rotary Club of South Bend.
3. Demonstrate behavior consistent with Rotary's mission of *Service Above Self*.
4. Participate fully in the Rotary mentoring program.

Payment:

Funds are paid directly to the student's college or university account and may be used for tuition, fees, books, or other education-related expenses.

Application Instructions (for both scholarships)

Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026

Submit completed materials to:

Rotary Scholarship Committee

Rotary Club of South Bend

P.O. Box 11315, South Bend, IN 46617

Email: admin@rotaryclubofsouthbend.org

Required Application Materials

1. **Completed Application Form**
2. **Official High School Transcript and**
3. **PSAT/ACT Test Scores (optional)**
4. **Student Essay (500 words max):**
 - Phoenix applicants: Describe the personal or educational challenges you have overcome and what you have learned from those experiences. Describe your career goals.
 - Vagner applicants: Describe your academic achievements and commitment to the health sciences field, including your career goals.
5. **Letter of Recommendation** from a counselor, teacher, or non-family member. For the Phoenix Scholarship, this letter should describe how the student overcame an obstacle.

6. **Acknowledgement Statement:** Confirm that you understand and agree to the scholarship expectations.
 7. **Optional:** A second letter of recommendation.
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Selection and Notification

- Applications must be submitted by the student.
 - Counselors may recommend more than one student from their school.
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to a short interview with the Rotary Scholarship Committee.
 - Recipients and sponsors will be notified by letter and recognized at the **Rotary Awards Ceremony** on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 12 p.m.**
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Application Form

Scholarship Applying For (check one):

☐ Phoenix Scholarship ☐ Dr. S. Bernard Vagner Health Sciences Scholarship

Student Information

NAME

CELL PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

STUDENT EMAIL

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE

Current GPA: _____ College You Plan to Attend: _____

College Application Status (circle one): Approved / Pending

Parent/Guardian Information

NAME

CELL PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS (if different)

Recommender Information

NAME

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER

RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT

Additional Requirements

- ☐ Attach your counselor's or teacher's letter of recommendation
- ☐ Attach your transcript
- ☐ Attach your personal essay
- ☐ Attach an additional recommendation letter (optional)

Attendance Confirmation

If awarded the scholarship, would you and your counselor/teacher be interested in attending the Awards Ceremony at a Rotary luncheon on May 20th? Yes / No

Questions?

Email: admin@rotaryclubofsouthbend.org

Phone: (574) 233-1516

Website: rotaryclubofsouthbend.org