



Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation



Information Packet for School/Financial Aid Counselors

School Year: 2024-2025

Dear Counselor,

The Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF) is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities to your graduating students applying to accredited community colleges, colleges, universities, or vocational training schools.

About the Rossmoor Scholarship Program

The Rossmoor Scholarship program, over 50 years in existence, is an academic and needs-based program, with a well-rounded approach to include factors beyond a student's GPA and SAI (Student Aid Index). It is the hope of the Foundation's Trustees that you will work with your graduating students to identify those who have significant financial need, qualifying academic records, noteworthy extracurricular activities and work experience. We are here to help, so please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Rossmoor Scholarship

The Rossmoor Scholarship is \$3,500.00. In 2024, RSF awarded scholarships including Add-on Awards totaling \$340,000 to 84 students.

Add-on Awards

In addition to applying for a Rossmoor Scholarship, an applicant may also apply for Add-on awards. These awards are \$2,500 each and significantly increase the total scholarship amount received from RSF. An applicant may apply for one or more awards but each award requires a separate essay.

Eligibility

To be eligible a student must have a GPA (weighted for high school) of at least **3.00**, and a SAI of no more than **\$32,000**. **High school counselors must verify for any student who applies.**

Application Window

The application process will open on **December 2, 2024**. Applications must be completed by **February 3, 2025 for high school graduates and February 18, 2025 for community college graduates.**

Application Process

1. Applications are started at the RSF website, rossmoorscholarship.org, in the **SCHOLARSHIP** link on the navigation menu. Applicants will be directed to our third-party application software called Kaleidoscope. All applications will be made through this software. **Students should be encouraged to briefly describe the school clubs and community service organizations they reference in their application.**
2. A Letter of Recommendation (LOR) from a current or recent academic teacher is required with the application. The teacher will get an email from Kaleidoscope explaining how to submit the LOR directly to the student's application. **Students should confirm that the teacher has received their email request and that the LOR has been uploaded to the student's application. Counselors are encouraged to also monitor LOR activity to ensure they are uploaded by application closing.**
3. Students may also submit up to 3 optional letters of recommendation through their Kaleidoscope application. These may be from other teachers or from instructors, coaches, employers, mentors, and others who know the student well.
4. Students must upload a self-photo in JPEG format (at least 2MB resolution, neutral background, no mask) to the application. The photo cannot be taken by a professional photographer.
5. The signature form is part of the application.
6. **Applications must be 100% complete by the closing date to be considered.**

Additional materials required

- A transcript through the first semester of senior year of high school or the first semester of the second year of community college should be uploaded to the application. Counselors may be asked to verify the transcripts of those students that receive a scholarship award.
- **Counselors are encouraged to monitor and keep RSF apprised of the FAFSA/SAI status of their student applicants.** Applicants must submit the SAI from the SAR (Student Aid Report) page or for those who meet the non-resident exemption requirements, the SAI from the CADAA (California Dream Act Application) confirmation page at www.caldreamact.org.

Interview

RSF will schedule personal interviews with candidates, generally in the middle to end of February. The Interview Team consists of three RSF Board members and will be conducted in-person or online (Zoom meeting).

Rossmoor Scholarship

\$3,500

- Awarded to students with significant financial need, academic achievement, and substantial involvement in school, community activities, work experiences and/or family responsibilities.
- A committee of Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation Trustees will review applicant's school transcript (GPA), the Student Aid Index (SAI), school and community activities, family responsibilities, awards, and letters of recommendation.
- The committee will also read the applicant's essay and interview the applicant in person or via Zoom.

Add-on Awards

\$2,500

As a graduating high school/community college student, applicants may simultaneously apply for one or more Add-on Awards which cover a variety of topics including among others community service, instrumental music, social justice, single mother and STEM. A complete list of Add-on Awards for 2024-25 will be provided to counselors and contained in the application. Included below are two examples of these awards to illustrate what is generally required to apply and to be considered for an award.

The Sylvia Kaplan Community Services Award

- Awarded to a high school or community college student who receives a Rossmoor Scholarship.
- Applicants must demonstrate significant community service.
- Applicants must write a separate 500-to-600-word essay describing her/his contributions to the community.

The Eleana Peratis Women in STEM Award

- Awarded to a female high school or community college student who receives Rossmoor Scholarship.
- Applicants are pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM).
- Applicants must write a separate 500-to-600-word essay answering this question:
"Two hundred years ago people lived very different lives from the way people live now. If someone from that time period were transported to our time, they would be amazed by all our technical advances like televisions, cell phones, cars, planes, satellites, space travel, medical devices, and computers. What is the next new technology you would like to help develop and how will it change the world?"