



Scholarship Program 2024 - 2025

OUR VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Shifting Gears USA envisions a community where automobile culture is an important social value, vocational careers are a highly rewarding professional path, and the talent for a variety of trade jobs is available to local businesses. Our Mission, as a car enthusiasts' organization, is to develop, enhance and support vocational training for young people of Marin County by advancing technical education programs that provide a pathway to successful careers in today's workplace.

WHAT WE DO AND WHO WE SERVE

We direct our charitable giving back into the community, helping to build awareness and respect for skilled trade career choices.

Our goal is to fund skilled trade education for Marin students and to develop and establish vocational pathways. We're creating career opportunities for people who want to take an alternate path and we're helping to build a new generation of skilled tradespeople.

We support Marin students seeking skilled trade education as an alternative path to a rewarding career, different from the "college-at-all-costs" approach and help working technicians find apprenticeship placement and achieve a career in the vocational trades, particularly in automotive technology and vocational services.

SPONSOR A SHIFTING GEARS USA SCHOLAR

Shifting Gears USA awards trade school scholarships to aspiring technicians to help them learn the skills they need to begin their career. Students receive up to \$2500 per school year to help pay tuition costs at an accredited technology school. Our scholarships are given to deserving students from diverse backgrounds who want to build a career in automotive technology.

CHOOSE YOUR SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

As an individual, a private foundation, or a business you can sponsor one or more scholarships. When you do, you'll be making a difference in the life of an aspiring automotive technician and 100% of your gift will go to our scholarship program.

INDIVIDUAL GIFT OF \$25 OR MORE
ONE SCHOLARSHIP, A \$2500 GIFT
TWO SCHOLARSHIPS, A \$5000 GIFT
THREE SCHOLARSHIPS, A \$7500 GIFT

Scholarships in 2024

Help us raise \$15,000 to fund scholarships in 2024 and beyond. Young people are interested in the automotive trades, but they need help to get the education and hands-on training they need.

Every Gift Counts

Gifts of any size are appreciated. Donations of less than \$2500 will be combined with others to fund a scholarship. As a community, we can make a difference.

100% Goes to Our Scholarship Program

When you sponsor a Shifting Gears USA scholar, 100% of your donation goes to our scholarship program. Together, we're creating the next generation automotive technicians.

Creating Career Opportunities

We're helping removing barriers and increasing access for everyone. Shifting Gears USA is an independent 501(c)(3) public charity working to serve our Marin students. Your sponsorship gift is tax deductible.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of their demonstrated interest in a skilled automotive trade career and their related experience, as communicated through their personal statement and essay. Their letters of recommendation, financial need and scholastic achievement will also contribute to the selection of scholarship recipients.

Recipient students will receive up to \$2500 for an academic year. This scholarship award will be sent directly to the school the recipient designates for tuition, books and other direct costs of attendance at that institution. Awards are for undergraduate study only. Students may apply in each scholarship period they are eligible. A student may receive a scholarship award for up to two years.

The scholarship committee is responsible for reviewing applications, selecting and interviewing candidates, and awarding scholarships. It is made up of Shifting Gears USA leadership, student advisors, and certain community members. All applicants agree to accept scholarship committee decisions as final.

Application

Interested Students Apply for Scholarship Funds

If you have a strong interest in an automotive vocational trade, and plan to enroll or are enrolled in a two- or four-year automotive technology programs, we encourage you to apply for a Shifting Gears USA scholarship.

Eligibility Requirements

Marin high school students who have a strong interest in pursuing a career in the automotive trades and services may apply to our scholarship program if they meet the following eligibility requirements.

Applicants Must:

- Be a graduating high school senior, high school graduate, GED recipient, or current college undergraduate.
- Plan to enroll in undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college or vocational-technical school in California and be pursuing an associate or vocational-technical degree or certification in a vocational automotive trade skill.

How to Apply

Our Scholarship Committee Reviews Applicants

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of their demonstrated interest in a skilled trade career and their experience. “Extra credit” is given to those participating in the CAPP program at Terra Linda High School. Letters of recommendation, financial need, and academic records also contribute to awarding scholarships.

We Stay Connected with Our Scholars

Through mentoring, events, and volunteer opportunities we stay connected with our scholars during school and beyond. For those who want to build a career in the automotive vocational trade, a Shifting Gears USA apprenticeship could be a next step.

Application Dates & Deadlines

Shifting Gears USA scholarships are awarded once per year. See the Shifting Gears USA Scholarship Eligibility Criteria and Application Procedures for details. Therein you will find:

Applications – Applications must be received by Friday, April 19, 2024

Interviews – Interviews will be scheduled with the selected applicants in early May (attendance required)

An application is not considered complete until all required materials have been submitted by mailing to Shifting Gears USA, PO Box 9087, San Rafael, California 94912. All materials must be submitted in their entirety at the same time, except for the personal reference letters which may be separately mailed to the PO Box cited earlier. If so, please keep in mind the mandatory receipt due date.

Funds will be distributed in two equal payments made directly to the school of attendance. The first payment for Fall semester will be distributed in August 2024 and the second payment for the Spring semester will be distributed in December 2024.

SPONSOR A SCHOLAR

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It's easy to sponsor a Shifting Gears USA scholar and support automotive vocational education for aspiring students. There are several ways you can make a donation; download the pledge form from the Shifting Gears USA web site to make a gift by check or wire transfer.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

As a 501(c)3 non-profit business and a public charity, we understand and embrace our responsibility to steward the gifts of our donors for the greatest positive impact in our community.

We strive to meet all legal and regulatory requirements, and operate within the best practices, in a timely and transparent manner.

All donations to Shifting Gears USA, under this program, are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Our EIN is 85-0800894.