



Venice-Nokomis Rotary Foundation

2017-2018 Academic Scholarships Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is the deadline for submitting a scholarship application?**
4 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2017
- 2. Who is eligible to apply to Venice-Nokomis Rotary Foundation of Venice for a scholarship?**
Preference is given to non-traditional students. If you are a permanent legal resident of Venice or its surrounding communities (South Sarasota County), you are eligible to apply.
- 3. Are Venice-Nokomis Rotary Foundation's scholarships renewable?**
Scholarships are not renewable. However, students may re-apply provided they continue to meet the criteria.
- 4. Must I attend a college in the state of Florida in order to be eligible to apply?**
No.
- 5. Are Venice-Nokomis Rotary Foundation scholarships merit-based or need-based?**
The scholarships are **need-based** provided that the student meets the minimum GPA and other required criteria for the scholarship which he/she is applying.
- 6. How should I complete the application form?**
Applications can be downloaded from our website www.venicenokomisrotary.org, but completed applications must be submitted by mail. **Only complete applications will be accepted.**
- 7. How should I submit my letters of recommendation and other attachments?** At the conclusion of the application, you will be asked to mail the following documents Two letters of recommendation, transcripts, SAR (optional but preferred), and college acceptance letter (if available).
- 8. Do my transcripts have to be "official" transcripts?** No, but your **school name** and **your name** must appear on the transcript.
- 9. How current should my letters of recommendation be and from whom must they come?**
Letters must be current (within six months). Teachers, school counselors, pastors, employers, or coaches are appropriate individuals to ask for references. It is highly recommended that one letter be an **academic-related** reference and one letter be a **personal or community-related** reference. Reference letters cannot be from relatives of the applicant.

10. *How much financial information will be required?*

While tax returns are no longer required, **early filing of tax returns is strongly encouraged**, as information from it will be required for completion of your FAFSA, which produces your SAR, which then states your EFC.

11. *What is FAFSA?*

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It is required in order for you to apply for any type of federal financial assistance. Application forms can be obtained from the guidance or financial aid office at your school. You may also call 1.800.433.3243 or complete the application online by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. Information generated by completion of the FAFSA is required for most scholarship applications, local and otherwise.

12. *What is a SAR and how do I get one?*

SAR stands for Student Aid Report. The SAR is generated from the FAFSA. Venice-Nokomis Rotary Foundation scholarship applicants may submit a SAR with their scholarship application.

13. *What is an EFC?*

EFC stands for Estimated Family Contribution. Based on a government calculated formula from the information you submit on your FAFSA application, the EFC is the amount of money the government believes your family should be able to contribute to your college funding. The EFC number usually appears in the upper right-hand corner of the SAR, but it may appear elsewhere on the report.

14. *When will I be notified whether or not I've received an award?*

All applicants will be notified by e-mail no later than June 30, 2017. Please be sure the email address you provide in the application is a good address as it will be used for all communication.