



Richard and Lorayne Otto Scholarship - Instructions and Sample Application

This is a SAMPLE application for your review only - please do not submit this form. All applicants must use our GOapply grant portal. Learn more [HERE](#). **Questions?** Contact Tracy Russman, Scholarship Coordinator at trussman@ourcommunity.org or 517-927-7729.

Applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- Academic Achievements and GPA
- Participation in extracurricular activities and community service, employment, clubs, youth groups, sports, etc.
- Two meaningful letters of recommendation from non-family members.
- Quality and effort demonstrated in the essay. Make sure you pay attention to the character limits, spell check your work and have someone else proofread!
- To a lesser extent, financial need and extenuating life circumstances.

1. Applicant Information – we will ask you for the following information:

- Student name, home address, cell phone, personal email address (not a high school email)
- Name of the parent or guardian who works for Auto-Owners, their job title, the city and state of their Auto Owners office location, and their work email address.
- **Extenuating Financial Circumstances:** If applicable, describe any extenuating financial circumstances in your home or family that might affect your family's ability to pay for your education. For example: you live in a single-parent home, you have a physical or mental limitation, or there are multiple siblings in college, or parents with extreme medical expenses, etc. Financial need is not a primary factor in awarding this scholarship, but it is helpful for our selection committee to better understand your unique situation. (1000 characters max including spaces)

2. Education:

- Name of your high school, most recent cumulative grade point average on 4-point scale (unweighted) as shown on most recent transcript. SAT score if applicable.
- Name of the college or institution you hope to attend, the status of your enrollment (exploring, applied, accepted, enrolled, etc.) and what field do you hope to study.
- Describe some of the academic achievements during high school that you are most proud of: (800 characters max, including spaces).
- Provide your most recent high school transcript. An unofficial transcript is acceptable as long as it displays the name of the school and the student. This will be used for verifying your GPA only and will not be shared with anyone but the staff person collecting applications. Please do not give us a link, please upload an actual file.

3. Activities

We would like to understand your level of involvement in activities outside of class time and homework/study during your high school years. The founders of this scholarship are especially interested in supporting students that have a well-rounded involvement in their school and community. This could include school clubs, sports, music and other student groups. It could also include community involvement such as volunteering, faith-based activities, mentoring, etc. It could also include employment experience. Each question has a limit of 800 characters including spaces.

For the next three questions, please describe how you have generally spent your time outside of school hours since 9th grade. Include how many years for each activity, and if you have held any leadership positions in these activities. Use N/A if not applicable.

- Tell us about your **Extra-Curricular Activities** since 9th grade.
- Tell us about your **Employment and Other Paid Jobs** since 9th grade
- Tell us about your **Volunteer/Community Involvement** since 9th grade

4. Essay (2500 characters max, including spaces and punctuation)

Please answer the three questions below. Your essay should reflect your honest opinions and ideas, which are more important to us than perfect essay mechanics. HOWEVER, your essay should demonstrate a solid knowledge of grammar and punctuation. Your essay will lose significant points if you do not adhere to the minimum character count requirement, or do not address these questions specifically, or if the essay doesn't show a decent amount of effort.

- **QUESTION 1)** Describe your career goals and what makes you want to pursue this line of work. Even if you are not 100% sure of your career goals, please describe what you are interested in doing with your education and your future.
- **QUESTION 2)** Please describe some ways that you want to make your community better as an adult, by using your education, talents, skills and passions. For example, what do you wish were different about your community right now, and how do you think you might try to address this problem?
- **QUESTION 3)** Please describe an obstacle or difficulty that you have experienced in your life, and how you have managed or overcome it?

5. Two Recommendation Letters: Provide two letters of recommendation from non-family members (teacher, coach, pastor, mentor, etc.) The letters should be recent, within the past two years. The letters should address why you are a good candidate for this scholarship and why you will be successful in college and beyond.

8. Signature – you will be asked to confirm this statement: “My signature below verifies that I, the student, personally completed this application. The answers contained in the application are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification of information will result in termination of any scholarship granted. If awarded this scholarship, I agree to the use of my name and likeness for sharing with the scholarship committee and the scholarship donors.”