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The Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation of Sonoma County, a non-profit 501c (3) corporation, was established in 1982, today our mission is to empower and support youth agricultural education and leadership development in Sonoma County. Through the Foundation we hope to promote and inspire Sonoma County youth participation in agriculture, leadership, and educational activities through scholarships, grants, and a place for youth to meet.

2026 Scholarships Available

Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship

The Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of 3 years, including his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. This Scholarship is awarded to a high school senior planning to attend a community college or four-year college in California, with a major in any field of agriculture. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The scholarship will be up to **\$20,000 over 4 years** depending on continued eligibility.

Richard M. Kunde Scholarship

The Richard M. Kunde Scholarship is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of 3 years, including his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. This scholarship is for a high school senior attending a 4-year California college majoring in **Viticulture/Enology**. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The scholarship will be up to **\$20,000 over 4 years** depending on continued eligibility.

Richard M. Kunde SRJC Scholarship

The Richard M. Kunde SRJC Viticulture Scholarship is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of three years including his or her junior and senior years of high school. The scholarship is for high school seniors studying viticulture at Santa Rosa Junior College. Eligible applicants must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA. The scholarship will be up to \$5,000 for two years at SRJC depending on continued eligibility.

Dr. Fred Groverman, DVM Scholarship

The Dr. Fred Groverman, DVM Scholarship offers \$1,000 to Sonoma County 4-H members who have been active in 4-H for a minimum of 4 years, including his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Dr. Groverman is looking for an individual who has experience in agriculture and leadership. Applicants must be entering or attending a college or accredited trade school and majoring in Agriculture or a form of leadership.

Beverly C. Wilson Scholarship

The Beverly C. Wilson Scholarship, offers \$3,500 to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth. It is awarded to a graduating high school senior or college student attending a four-year accredited university, with preference given to those studying Business or Agricultural Business. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The young person selected for the scholarship will have a balanced history of community service, dedicated leadership, and a motivated work ethic in the spirit of Beverly C. Wilson.

Men's Garden Club Scholarship

The Men's Garden Club grants two scholarships of \$1,500 each to Sonoma County residents pursuing careers in agriculture or agri-business. Applicants must be entering or attending a college or accredited trade school.

The Saralee Community Service Scholarship

The Saralee Community Service Scholarship is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of 3 years, including his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. The Saralee Community Service Scholarship will grant \$2,500 to a young person 21 years or younger who has demonstrated excellence in volunteerism and leadership and who is committed to making a difference in our community.

John Cornolo Scholarship

The John Cornolo Scholarship grants \$1,000 to a Sonoma County High School graduate, planning to attend a trade school. The young person selected must have a propensity for mechanics and/or carpentry, a history of helping others, a strong work ethic, and a genuine sense of humility.

The Bassett Fernandes Leadership Award

The Bassett Fernandes Leadership Award grants two scholarships from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to a high school graduate, planning to attend a Junior College or 4-year college and to an applicant attending a trade school, including electrical, plumbing carpentry, forest management, welding, mechanics, fire, EMT or police academies. Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years in 4-H and/or FFA and have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA. More than one of these scholarships may be available depending on applicants eligibility. .

Northbay Wool Growers Sheep Project Excellence Scholarship

The Northbay Wool Growers Sheep Project Excellence Scholarship grants \$500 to a Sonoma, Marin or Mendocino County resident who demonstrates strong involvement in the sheep and/or wool industry. Applicants must major in agriculture or an agricultural related field with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The Dempel Scholarship

The Dempel Scholarship grants \$2,500 to Sonoma County 4-H youth entering or attending a university, college, or accredited trade school majoring in a field of their interest. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA. Applicants must have been active in 4-H a minimum of 4 years, including his/her junior or senior years of high school. Recipients of this scholarship may only receive it once.

American AgCredit Scholarship

American AgCredit grants two \$1,500 scholarships to Sonoma County residents pursuing careers in agriculture or agri-business. These scholarships are designed to support future farmers and ranchers and are available to graduating high school seniors entering college, community college transfer students moving to a four-year accredited university, as well as college juniors and seniors.

Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Scholarship

The Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of 4 years, including in his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. Applicants must be entering or attending a college or accredited trade school. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 2.75 GPA.

Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Directors Scholarship

The Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Directors Scholarship is available to Sonoma County 4-H or FFA youth who have been active a minimum of 4 years, including in his/her Junior and Senior years of high school. Applicants must be High School Seniors and entering or attending a college or accredited trade school. Recipients will be selected based on their ongoing commitment to leadership in their field(s) of interest. Eligible applicants must have a minimum 2.75 GPA.

Scholarship Criteria/Requirements:

- All scholarships vary as the availability to graduating high school seniors, junior college students, continuing four-year college students, or trade/vocational school students.
- Unless otherwise stated, all applicants must have been in Sonoma County 4-H or FFA depending on the scholarship award eligibility.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 is required for all Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Scholarship applicants, 3.00 is required for the Richard M. Kunde & Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship, and Beverly C Wilson applicants. Note: there are different GPA requirements for each scholarship, please take note of that.
- Recommendation letters must be written within the current school year.
- **Official High School or Official College transcript (signed by school registrar) is required, due by mail or official email.**
- Photo of Applicant – Please insert your professional photo onto the cover page of application. Additionally send a digital high-resolution jpeg file emailed to: sierra.youthagleadership@gmail.com (Please no printed photos)
- All completed applications must be received and signed by the deadline indicated below.
- Applications that are incomplete or fail to meet the deadline will be disqualified.

How to Apply:

- There is one common application for all scholarships administered by the Youth Ag and Leadership Foundation of Sonoma County.
- Please note additional information may be required depending upon the scholarship.
- **Applications must be typed, completed, and signed. (Please note: unsigned applications will be considered incomplete.)**
- A checklist of the additional application materials for a complete application is included.
- All completed applications must be received by the deadline of **5pm March 10, 2026**.
- **Mail/email completed application and required documents to:
Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation, PO Box 1283 Rohnert Park, CA 94927, or to
sierra.youthagleadership@gmail.com**

Process:

- Applications will be reviewed for requirement compliance to determine the finalists for interviews with the Foundation scholarship selection committee.
- **All finalists must participate in a mandatory oral interview** (in-person interviews are preferred, but if a candidate has a hardship that prevents them from an in-person interview, a Zoom interview may be scheduled) on one of the pre-scheduled days: **Friday, April 10, 2026 and/or Saturday, April 11, 2026.**
- Interview date(s) will depend upon how many finalists and the need for an additional day.

If Selected:

- Proof of enrollment and a copy of the “thank you” letter written to the scholarship donors must be received before issuing a check to the scholarship recipient.
- It is highly encouraged for selected scholarship recipients to attend one of the Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Board of Directors meetings. You will be asked to talk about yourself; your 4-H and/or FFA and school accomplishments, your educational goals, where you are going to college and anything else you wish to share.

Scholarship Check-Off Cover

To ensure that all of the materials needed for a complete application are included, please check off this form and include it with your application. Please make sure you ARE eligible for the scholarships for which you are applying.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS (Due by 5pm, Monday, March 10, 2026)

- SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**
Please type all the fields and sign the last page to complete the application.
- TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
From a teacher, 4-H leader, FFA advisor, school principal or employer (must have been written within the current school year, including applicant's name and may not be written by a parent or close relative).
- TRANSCRIPT**
Most recent **Official/Certified** High School or **Official/Certified** College transcript is required.
- PHOTO OF APPLICANT**
Digital high-resolution JPEG file is required on front of the application AND sent digitally. (Can be emailed to sierra.youthagleadership@gmail.com or submitted with the application on a flash drive.) Please, no printed photos.
- PERSONAL STATEMENT**
No more than two pages, typed and double-spaced.
- ACADEMIC RESUME**
(list of achievements, community service, etc.)
- 4-H RECORD BOOKS AND/OR SENIOR PAGES (OPTIONAL)**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS (Required)

- Richard M. Kunde Scholarship & Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship**
The Richard M. Kunde Scholarship and the Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship require an additional 500-word cover letter answering the following question: If you were selected to receive this scholarship, what impact would it have on you and your family? Additionally, how would this financial support contribute to your educational journey and assist you in reaching your long-term academic and career goals?



Please Type

FULL NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

HOW LONG AT THIS ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

CUMULATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GPA: _____ CUMULATIVE COLLEGE GPA: _____

PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S NAME(S) AND WHERE EMPLOYED: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

MOTHER'S NAME: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN IN 4-H?

(List total years & calendar years involved): _____

HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED IN 4-H/FFA BEYOND THE CLUB/CHAPTER LEVEL? LIST
COMMUNITY SERVICE, LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL FAIRS/COMPETITIONS/CONVENTIONS ETC.



HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN IN FFA? (If none write N/A)

(List total years & calendar years involved) : _____

WHAT FFA EVENTS/ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN?

WHAT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?

LIST HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR COLLEGE AND COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED (INCLUDING PRESENT SCHOOL) **Do not include single courses or night school

HIGH SCHOOL: _____ YEAR GRADUATED: _____

JUNIOR COLLEGE: _____ CITY: _____

COLLEGE: _____ CITY: _____

LIST NAME OF COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, JUNIOR COLLEGE, OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL YOU HAVE APPLIED TO: _____

YEAR YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: _____

LIST ANY SCHOOL YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO: _____

LIST INTENDED MAJOR & MINORS OF STUDIES: _____



Please Type

PLEASE LIST THE SCHOLARSHIPS THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN PAST YEARS:

Scholarship/Organization Name	Year Awarded	Amount Awarded

PLEASE LIST THE AMOUNT AND NAMES OF ANY GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR:

Scholarship/Grant Name	Year to Receive Funds	Amount Awarded



Please Type

PLEASE FILL OUT ESTIMATED COST OF ONE SCHOOL YEAR:

TUITION: _____ ROOM & BOARD: _____

OTHER EXPENSES (please explain): _____

TOTAL EXPENSE FOR SCHOOL YEAR: _____

IN 250 WORDS OR LESS EXPLAIN HOW YOU ARE PAYING FOR COLLEGE: *(Required)*

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, PERSONAL STATEMENT OF NOT MORE THAN TWO TYPED PAGES, DOUBLE-SPACED, AND AN OFFICIAL (SIGNED) TRANSCRIPT.

Note: Letters of recommendation can be from a teacher, 4-H leader, FFA advisor, school principal, or employer (must have been written within the current school year, including applicant's name and may not be written by a parent or close relative).

Applications due by 5 p.m. Monday, March 10, 2026

All the information provided on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I am applying for full-time enrollment to either a four-year College or University, a two-year Community College, or a Vocational/Trade School. I have read and understand the criteria of this scholarship program. I have included a complete set of the application and required documents. I understand that the selection of scholarship recipients is at the sole discretion of the Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation of Sonoma County.

Required: Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Note: Application will be rejected if not signed.

Please check box if you would like feedback if not selected

Updated: January 2026



Youth Ag & Leadership Foundation Scholarship Application

This document is a supplement to the application for the Richard M. Kunde Scholarship and the Saralee McClelland Kunde Scholarship. If you meet the requirements of either of these scholarships, please complete the following section.

In 500 words or less, if you were selected to receive this scholarship, what impact would it have on you and your family? Additionally, how would this financial support contribute to your educational journey and assist you in reaching your long-term academic and career goals?