



# Gardena POLICE FOUNDATION

## Scholarship Program Application

The Gardena Police Foundation (GPF) is dedicated to helping youth in the Gardena, California and surrounding communities attend and succeed in college. The purpose of the Gardena Police Foundation Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to deserving high school graduating seniors intending to pursue a course of study at either an accredited two-year or four-year educational institution.

For 2026, the GPF Scholarship Fund's award ceiling is \$80,000. GPF will award up to five (5) scholarships, not to exceed \$16,000 per recipient, assuming recipient maintains eligibility. *NOTE: Scholarship funds will be distributed on an annual basis of up to \$4,000, and not to exceed a total of \$16,000 per recipient, assuming recipient maintains eligibility.*

There are three different categories of the Gardena Police Foundation Scholarship. Applicant may apply for a Scholarship under only **one (1)** category:

**A. *GPF General Scholarship Fund Applicants (up to a total of (3) recipients): Criteria and eligibility***

1. Applicant must attend Gardena, Pacific Lutheran or Junipero Serra High School.
2. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
3. Applicant must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.
4. Applicant must demonstrate community involvement, improvement in academics, and desires to attend an accredited two or four-year college.
5. Applicant may not be related to any Board of Directors or staff for this presents a conflict of interest.
6. Applicant must attend a Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 2, 2026.

**B. *Gardena Resident (1 recipient): Criteria and eligibility***

1. Applicant must reside in Gardena, living in zip codes 90247 or 90249, and show proof of residency for at least two (2) years.
2. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
3. Applicant must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.
4. Applicant must demonstrate community involvement, improvement in academics, and desires to attend an accredited two or four-year college.
5. Applicant may not be related to any Board of Directors or staff for this presents a conflict of interest.
6. Applicant must attend a Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 2, 2026.

**C. *Gardena Police Explorers (1 recipient): Criteria and eligibility***

1. Applicant must be a member of the Gardena Police Explorers Post.
2. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior in the year of the award.
3. Applicant must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.
4. Applicant must demonstrate community involvement, improvement in academics, and desires to attend an accredited two or four-year college.
5. Applicants may not be related to any Board of Directors or staff for this presents a conflict of interest.
6. Applicants must attend a Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 2, 2026.

### ***General Instructions***

1. DEADLINE for scholarship applications is **January 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** (no exceptions).
2. Refer to application process below for a list of the supporting documents needed (i.e., reference forms, evidence of GPA, etc.) Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. If any question does not apply to you in this application please put N/A in the space.
4. Type and print legibly. Illegible applications will not be considered. You may also download a copy of the application online at [www.gardenapolicefoundation.org](http://www.gardenapolicefoundation.org).
5. You will be notified via email in February regarding the status of your application.
6. If you have any questions about the application, please call the Foundation Office at (310) 283-8469.
7. All selected recipients are expected to attend an Awards Luncheon on **April 2, 2026** at 11am. More information to follow.
8. To maintain award eligibility, recipients must comply with the following Rules and Regulations:
  - a. Strive to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA at the accredited two or four-year college recipient attends.
  - b. Keep the Gardena Police Foundation Scholarship Program Committee ("Committee") informed of any changes regarding enrollment status at the college attended within 30 days of the change.
  - c. Keep the Committee informed of recipient and recipient's parent/guardian's current contact information and advise the Committee of any change to that information within 30 days of the change.
  - d. Following the initial scholarship installment, scholarship funds will be distributed at the beginning of each school year until the receipt of the final scholarship installment. The scholarship **may** be for up to a total of \$16,000; \$4,000 per school year, assuming eligibility, including the initial scholarship installment.
  - e. To receive the next scholarship installment, recipient must submit **official** transcripts that display the last semester/quarter class schedule, grades and upcoming fall class schedule to the Gardena Police Foundation office no later than the **first Friday in August**. These funds will be distributed only if recipient has fully complied with the foregoing Rules and Regulations.
  - f. Failure to fully comply with all the Rules and Regulations may result in the forfeiture of the Scholarship.
  - g. Please contact the Committee at [info@gardenapolicefoundation.org](mailto:info@gardenapolicefoundation.org) if there are any issues with recipient's Scholarship.

### ***Application Process:***

Applicant must submit the following items:

1. Completed application form (if handwritten, please print legibly)
2. Letter of application addressed to the Scholarship Committee. The letter should contain a brief bio about yourself and your college plans (college/university, intended major, and anticipated start date). Letter should not exceed one (1) page.
3. One (1) letter of recommendation from choice of high school teachers, administrators, counselors, employers, or individual (not related) with significant knowledge of applicant's experience and involvement.
4. A recent high school transcript with cumulative grade point average.
5. Personal Essay. Essay must be two typed pages, single-spaced, 12 pt / Time New Roman font. Essay shall contain no grammatical errors. Essay shall address the following topic:

**Tell us about a time when you stepped up as a leader.**

6. Photo of applicant
7. For Application Category B (Gardena Resident), applicant must submit proof of residency for at least two years. Examples of proof of residency can include utility bill, driver's license, rental agreement or mortgage statement, or property tax receipt.

Please submit application via email to:  
**GPF Scholarship Program**  
[info@gardenapolicefoundation.org](mailto:info@gardenapolicefoundation.org)



# Gardena Police Foundation

## Scholarship Fund Program

### Application 2026

**Please check one category under which you qualify**  
☐ A - GPF General  
☐ B - Resident  
☐ C - Explorer

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|---|---|
| Please <b>type</b> or <b>print</b> your answers. Illegible applications will not be considered. |   |
| 1.  | Last Name: _____ First Name: _____  |
| 2.  | Address:<br><div style="margin-left: 40px;">Street: _____</div> <div style="margin-left: 40px;">City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____</div>                                 |
| 3.  | Cell Phone Number: (     ) _____  |
| 4.  | Email Address: _____  |
| 5.  | Date of Birth:    Month _____    Day _____    Year _____  |
| 6.  | Are you related to any of GPF Board of Directors or staff? (Please circle)      Yes      No<br>If yes, who? _____   |
| 7.  | Current High School: _____  |
| 8.  | Name of College you plan to attend in the <u>Fall of 2026</u> : _____<br><br>Proof of acceptance or current student enrollment from the above school is <b>required</b> . |
| 9.  | Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ (On a 4.0 scale)<br>Attach proof of GPA. Your most recent school transcript required.  |
| 10.   | Have you taken the<br>ACT exam? <b>Yes</b> <b>No</b> Score: _____<br>SAT exam? <b>Yes</b> <b>No</b> Score: _____  |
| 11.   | Family History:<br><br>Name of Father: _____<br><br>Occupation: _____<br><br>Name of Mother: _____<br><br>Occupation: _____<br><br>Number of Siblings: _____              |
| 11.   | What specialty/major do you plan to major in as you continue your education? _____  |

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| 12. | List your academic honors, awards and membership activities while in high school: |
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| 13. | List your community service activities, hobbies, outside interests, and extracurricular activities: |
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| 14. | <p><b>Personal Essay</b><br/>Please answer the following question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tell us about a time when you stepped up as a leader.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">This question must be two pages, typed, single-spaced, and 12 pt / Time New Roman font. Please ensure your essay contains no grammatical errors.</p> |
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| 15. | <p>A. The following items must be attached to this application in order for the application to qualify to be reviewed by the scholarship committee.</p> <p>B. Your application will <b>not</b> be considered if these items are not attached to this application. (No exceptions.)</p> <p>C. Circle "YES" or "NO" to be sure you have attached each item as required.</p> |    |   |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Completed application form.</b> All questions are answered completely.   |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Letter to Scholarship Committee.</b>   |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>One (1) Letter of Recommendation.</b>  |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Proof of college acceptance or application.</b>  |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Most recent high school transcripts.</b>   |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Personal Essay.</b> Must be two pages, typed, single-spaced, and 12 pt / Time New Roman font. Please ensure your essay contains no grammatical errors. |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Photo of Applicant</b>   |
|     | YES   | NO | <b>Proof of Residency (for Category B – Gardena Resident applicants)</b>  |



## STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the Foundation's scholarship program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship recipient, according to Gardena Police Foundation Scholarship policy, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution of my choice.

Signature of scholarship applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant's guardian/ parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Electronic Signatures NOT Accepted\****