



Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund, Inc.

PO Box 672 Lakeside, AZ 85929-0672
www.blueridgescholarship.com

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE: Applications need to be mailed to: BRSF, PO Box 672, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0672 and must be **postmarked by April 15, 2026**, to be considered for a scholarship in the school year 2026-2027.

APPLICATION & ATTACHMENTS: Please complete the attached application and include the following:

- (a) A personal essay, 75 words or fewer, outlining your higher education and career goals
- (b) Unofficial transcript
- (c) Only one letter of recommendation (not exceeding two paragraphs)
- (d) a FAFSA score if applying for a financial needs scholarship
- (e) applicable attachments required for individual scholarships

An incomplete/illegible application will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY: You must enroll as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, trade or technical school. See the list of Available Scholarships on Page 1 for eligibility information. Most, but not all, scholarships are awarded according to financial need. In addition, the committee will also consider scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and community service.



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PURPOSE

Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund, Inc. (BRSF), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, was organized in 1983 to coordinate the distribution of private scholarships to graduates of Blue Ridge High School. BRSF is a unified scholarship committee consisting of several local organizations and generous individuals. It is the intent of the committee to distribute scholarships to as many qualified graduates as possible who have a financial need and who will be enrolled in an accredited college, university, trade or technical school.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Scholarship money is derived from several sources including: the Annual Memorial Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament at White Mountain Country Club, Taste of the White Mountains, endowment funds, clubs, memorials, organizations, businesses, and generous individuals.

AWARDS

Applicants will be notified in May. Scholarship recipients who attend the BRHS Scholarship Night, *Evening of Excellence*, held in May at the school auditorium, will be recognized during the ceremony. Please retain this page for future reference, as it contains important information for those who are awarded a scholarship.

PAYMENT

If you are awarded scholarship funds, you must submit proof of full-time enrollment and a payment receipt from your school by **October 1, 2026**. Requests for spring semester funds must include proof of full-time enrollment, a payment receipt, and your fall semester college transcript, and must be submitted by **February 1, 2027**.

It is your responsibility to ensure all requirements are met by the stated deadlines. Scholarships must be claimed during the academic year immediately following graduation. Exceptions may be granted for circumstances such as foreign exchange programs or church missions, provided BRSF is notified in writing by **July 31, 2026**, following your graduation from Blue Ridge High School.

CONTACT US

Please contact us at brsfaz@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 672, Lakeside AZ 85929-0672

Keep this page for future dates and reference.



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2026 Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund Scholarships

The Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund Scholarship

This scholarship is open to graduating students who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a FAFSA.

The Ben Thomas Memorial Scholarship

The **Ben Thomas Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Ben Thomas, a dedicated science educator who served the Blue Ridge School District for 35 years. Holding degrees from Muhlenberg College and Eastern New Mexico University, Ben inspired generations of students through his passion for science, hands-on learning, and memorable field trips that sparked curiosity and discovery. Beyond the classroom, Ben was committed to faith, leadership, and service. He was active in the Lutheran Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the Boy Scouts of America, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout. An outdoorsman at heart, he valued learning, character, and community.

This scholarship is open to all graduating students, with **preference given to Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scouts or be interested in pursuing a degree in science, medicine or education related field**, honoring Ben's dedication to education, leadership, and youth development.

The Buddy & Tom Wise Memorial Scholarship

The **Buddy & Tom Wise Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Marguerite "Buddy" & Tom Wise, respected community members, business owners, and proud supporters of education.

Buddy was a proud native Arizonan, World War II Women's Army Corps veteran, and longtime Pinetop business owner. Raised in the White Mountains and educated in Arizona, Buddy was a graduate of Holbrook High School and Arizona State Teachers College. Buddy's father, Charlie Clark, established the Charlie Clark's Steakhouse. For 46 years, she owned and operated Elaine's Dress Shop, becoming a beloved and respected member of the Pinetop community.

Tom Wise, a World War II U.S. Army veteran, worked as a Chief Systems Analyst for Sperry Rand before moving to Pinetop, where he founded Crosby's Men's Shop alongside Buddy's Elaine's Dress Shop. He also served as President of the White Mountain Lions Club, reflecting his dedication to community service.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who plan to attend **Arizona State University**, honoring Buddy & Tom Wise's enduring connection to education and Arizona. Students must have a **2.5 minimum GPA** and be a U.S. Citizen to be eligible for the award. Scholarship may be renewable for up to 3 additional years if students continue to meet renewal requirements (2.5 GPA and enrolled at ASU full-time).

The Carin Rubin Insurance Agency Scholarship

The **Carin Rubin Insurance Agency Scholarship** recognizes the agency's commitment to supporting education and strengthening the local community. As a dedicated community partner, Carin Rubin Insurance Agency invests in the success and future of graduating students.

This scholarship is **open to all graduating students**, encouraging students to pursue their educational goals and make a positive impact in their community.

The Ferrell Fish Memorial Scholarship

The **Ferrell Fish Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Ferrell Fish, a lifelong educator who dedicated 42 years to Blue Ridge High School as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Through his unwavering commitment to students, he positively shaped countless young lives in the White Mountains community.



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Known for his kindness, generosity, and servant's heart, Ferrell used his time and talents to help others — from sharing firewood and garden harvests to shoveling snow for neighbors in need. He loved the outdoors and the community he called home, leaving behind a lasting legacy of love, service, and compassion.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who submit a short essay describing how **kindness and gratitude** have had a positive impact on their life.

The Gillespie Family Foundation Scholarship

The **Verl Gillespie Memorial** was established in 2011 by several of Verl Gillespie's children and grandchildren to honor their beloved father and grandfather. Their mission was simple: to continue the spirit of generosity and community service that Verl instilled in his family, friends, and everyone he encountered.

The White Mountains, and Blue Ridge High School in particular, hold a special place in the hearts of the Gillespie family, with multiple generations proud to call themselves Blue Ridge graduates. It is their hope that scholarship recipients feel the strong support of this community and appreciate the lasting memories it provides.

The primary goal of the Verl Gillespie Memorial is to provide financial assistance to local students pursuing higher education, with the hope that these students will one day give back to others and carry on the tradition of generosity inspired by Verl many years ago. After all, it is true that you make a living by what you earn, but you make a life by what you give.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**, and who go above and beyond in service to their community, friends, and family.

High Country Art Association Scholarship

The **High Country Art Association Scholarship** supports students committed to pursuing art and creative expression in higher education. For over 50 years, the High Country Art Association has hosted the 4th of July Fine Arts Festival, raising scholarship funds through a Silent Auction made possible by the generous donations of High Country Gallery artists and festival exhibitors. The High Country Gallery, located in the Times Square Plaza across from Charlie Clark's, continues to serve as a hub for local art and creativity (relocated to this site in 2026).

To qualify, students should describe their **past involvement in the arts**, explain their **commitment to continuing art education**, and submit **three examples of their artwork** along with any supporting materials. A major in art is not required, but a strong dedication to artistic growth is expected.

The Howard Williams Memorial Scholarship

The **Howard Williams Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Howard Wayne "Howie" Williams, a dedicated Industrial Arts educator who taught at Blue Ridge High School from 1984 to 2013. A graduate of Mesa Community College and Arizona State University, Howie inspired generations of students through hands-on learning in automotive and skilled trades. He took great pride in his former students working in the automotive industry, the Pit Crew Challenge teams, and his involvement with the National Street Rod Association. Known for his commitment to education, mentorship, and craftsmanship, Howie leaves a lasting impact on the community and the many students he guided toward successful careers in the trades.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who plan to study **Career & Technical Education (CTE)**, including **Automotive Studies, Welding, or other trade industries**. Applicants must maintain a **B+ or higher GPA** and demonstrate strong **attendance and motivation**.



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The Jack Barker Memorial Scholarship

The **Jack Barker Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Jack Barker, a devoted attorney and community leader. Jack gave tirelessly of his time and talents, supporting local organizations including the Blue Ridge School District Board, the Sunrise Park Ski Race Team, the Boy Scouts of America, the Audubon Society, Friends of the Pinetop-Lakeside Library, the Humane Society of the White Mountains, the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce, and the Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Foundation.

While the community remembers him for his selflessness, Jack's greatest joy was his family. He cherished his wife, children, grandchildren, and friends, sharing with them his love of life, the White Mountains, and the outdoors — from skiing and hunting to fishing and photography.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**. It celebrates students who reflect Jack's commitment to service, leadership, and community.

The Jim Crampton Memorial Scholarship

The **Jim Crampton Memorial Scholarship** honors the life of Jim Crampton, a dedicated CPA, community leader, and family man. After relocating to the White Mountains, Jim became a partner at Henry & Horne and devoted himself to serving the community through leadership roles with Navapache Hospital, the Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund, the Show Low Rotary Club, and many other local organizations.

An avid outdoorsman, Jim loved hunting, camping, golfing, hiking, and running, and shared these passions with his family and friends. A devout Christian and active member of Grace Lutheran Church, he lived a life rooted in faith, service, and generosity. Jim is remembered as a loving husband, devoted father, and tireless supporter of scholarships and education.

This scholarship is open to students planning to study **accounting** or who **played on the Blue Ridge Golf Team**, honoring Jim's legacy of hard work, community service, and commitment to helping others succeed.

The Johnnie Fay McQuillan Memorial Scholarship

The **Johnnie Fay McQuillan Memorial Scholarship** honors the remarkable legacy of Johnnie Fay McQuillan, who dedicated over 40 years to the banking industry and a lifetime to serving her community. As the previous Treasurer for Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund, a hospital district board member, an active participant in the White Mountain Woman's Club, and a devoted church member, Johnnie Fay exemplified generosity, leadership, and service wherever help was needed.

This scholarship is open to graduating students with an interest in **finance or accounting** who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**. It supports students who reflect Johnnie Fay's values of integrity, commitment, and a desire to give back.

The Lupe Acevedo Memorial Scholarship

The **Lupe Acevedo Memorial Scholarship** honors the life and legacy of Lupe Acevedo — a dedicated educator, coach, and proud Northern Arizona University graduate who grew up in Miami, Arizona. A standout member of the 1951–1955 NAU Lumberjack basketball teams, Lupe was inducted into the NAU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1982. Known as an inspiring coach and referee — and remembered for his famous phrase, "*hands, baby*" — he left a lasting impact on athletes and students alike.

This scholarship is open to graduating students **who are student-athletes**, plan to attend **Northern Arizona University**, and demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**.



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Rotary Club of the White Mountains Scholarship

The **Rotary of the White Mountains Scholarship** recognizes outstanding graduating students selected from Rotary's Student of the Month program. This award honors students who demonstrate exceptional character, leadership, academic achievement, and community service, reflecting Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. By supporting these students, Rotary of the White Mountains invests in future leaders who are committed to making a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

The Ryan Reinhold Scholarship

The **Ryan Reinhold Scholarship** honors Judge Ryan Reinhold for his 41 years of dedicated public service to Arizona as a Justice of the Peace, municipal and tribal judge, and Navajo County Constable.

Beyond the courtroom, Ryan is known for his tireless dedication to youth, education, and community leadership. He has led hundreds of volunteers through roles with the Boy Scouts of America, Blue Ridge High School Scholarship Fund, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club. As Assistant District Governor of Rotary, he helped establish a thriving international exchange student program that benefited dozens of teenagers.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**.

White Mountain Country Club Scholarship

The **White Mountain Country Club Scholarship** honors the long-standing tradition and community spirit of White Mountain Country Club, established in 1954. Known as a cherished "Home in the Mountains" for generations of families, WMCC is dedicated not only to providing an exceptional high-country experience, but also to supporting the Pinetop community and its employees through meaningful outreach and service.

This scholarship is open to graduating students who demonstrate **financial need**, as shown through submission of a **FAFSA**.



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BRSF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (page 1)

Your Name: _____
(Last Name, First Name)

AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

You may apply for any of the scholarships listed below by completing the attached Application. Mark the box of as many scholarships for which you may be eligible. (*=Must submit a FAFSA score demonstrating financial need.)

- ☐ **The Ben Thomas Scholarship** is open to all graduates with a preference to a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout or an individual interested in pursuing a degree in science, medicine, or education related field.
- ☐ **The Blue Ridge Scholarship Fund Scholarships*** are open to all graduates who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **The Buddy and Tom Wise Scholarship** is open to all graduates who will attend ASU with a GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- ☐ **The Carin Rubin Insurance Agency Scholarship** is open to all graduates.
- ☐ **The Ferrell Fish Memorial Scholarship** is open to any graduate who writes a short essay describing how kindness and gratitude have had a positive impact on their life.
- ☐ **The Gillespie Family Foundation Scholarship – Verl Gillespie Memorial*** is open to all graduates who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **The High Country Art Association** is open to any graduate who describes their past involvement in the arts, explains their commitment to continuing art education, and provides a portfolio consisting of 3 photographs of recent student work along with the application.
- ☐ **The Howard Williams Memorial Scholarship** is open to all graduates who will study Career & Technical Education (CTE), including but not limited to Automotive Studies, Welding, and trade industries. Must maintain a B+ or better average and be attendance motivated.
- ☐ **The Jack Barker Memorial Scholarship*** is open to all graduates who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **The Jim Crampton Memorial Scholarship** is open to any student who plans to study accounting or who played on the golf team.
- ☐ **The Johnnie Fay McQuillan*** is open to all graduates with an interest in finance or accounting and who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **The Lupe Acevedo Memorial Scholarship** is open to any graduate who was an athlete at BRHS, attending Northern Arizona University, and who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **The Rotary Club of the White Mountains Scholarship** is open to Rotary's Student of the Month students.
- ☐ **The Ryan Reinhold Scholarship*** is open to all graduates who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.
- ☐ **White Mountain Country Club Scholarship*** is open to all graduates who submit FAFSA score which demonstrates financial need.



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BRSF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (Page 2)

Your Name: _____ Your Age: _____
(Last Name, First Name)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Your home phone: _____ Your cell or message phone: _____

Your email address: _____

With whom do you reside? (Circle all that apply) mother, father, foster parents, live alone, grandparents/relatives, or legal guardian. Whom may we contact to verify this information? _____ Phone: _____

Explain any financial hardship situations, if applicable: _____

Will you get financial help from your family next year? Explain: _____

Excluding you, how many children are living at home or attending college now? _____

List their ages: _____

Will you be employed during the summer or during the semester? _____

Tell us about other scholarships that you have received or expect to receive: _____



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BRSF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (Page 3)

Your Name: _____
(Last Name, First Name)

What is your GPA? _____ What is your academic ranking? _____

What type of high school diploma will you be awarded at graduation? (Circle one)

Standard Vocational College Prep Honors

(Optional) What is your? ACT score _____ SAT score _____

What is your FAFSA score? _____

What school do you plan on attending in 2026-2027: _____

List volunteer work, community service, and/or church activities (include approx. dates): _____

List your paid jobs (include approx. dates and places): _____

List any advanced training or college courses you have completed while in high school: _____

List honors and awards you have received while in high school: _____

List the clubs, sports, and student government you were involved in: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Important: You must attach to this completed application: (a) On a separate sheet, a personal essay (75 words or less) outlining your goals for higher education or career, (b) An unofficial transcript (c) letter of recommendation (d) your FAFSA score if you want to be considered for a financial need award (e) applicable attachments required for individual scholarships. You must mail the application packet to: BRSF, PO Box 672, Lakeside, AZ 85929-0672. It must be postmarked no later than **April 15, 2026**.