



2024 OAKS Scholarship Nominator Form

DEADLINE: JUNE 3, 2024

NOMINATION INFORMATION:

Nominator Name: _____
Nominator Address: _____
Nominator Phone: _____ Nominator Email: _____
Relationship to Nominee _____ Length of Time You've Known Nominee: _____
Nominator Place of Employment/School/Organization _____

Please indicate how this nomination process was **initiated**:

- the student a classmate, family member or friend a teacher or coach a school
 counselor an employer a community organization
other _____

Nomination is for a (CHECK ONE):

- High School student who will be graduating in Spring 2024 and attending RCTC in Fall 2024
 First-Year RCTC student enrolled at RCTC during Spring 2023 and continuing at RCTC in Fall 2024

Student Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

This nomination is a testimony that a student has shown exceptional resilience, tenacity and drive to continue in the face of adversity to pursue their academic goals.

In your letter, please write your reasons for nominating this student for an **OAKS** scholarship. Please limit your nomination letter to no more than two double spaced pages. The nomination letter should include the following information:

- 1) Describe the circumstances, experiences, or challenges that the student has had to overcome.
- 2) Describe the positive changes or actions that the student has made to overcome these challenges.
- 3) What qualities or skills will help them to be successful at RCTC?
- 4) Why do you recommend them for this OAKS scholarship?

To complete their application, students must apply for the scholarship through the RCTC Foundation scholarship portal (www.rctc.edu/scholarships). If selected to receive a scholarship, each nominee will be interviewed to tell their story of how the student has overcome adversity. Videos of previous OAKS recipients can be found at www.rctc.edu/the-oaks Both student and nominator are expected to attend the **OAKS ceremony (Oct/Nov TBD).**

Nominator Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION PROCESS

The OAKS scholarship application has undergone a change.

While the OAKS Scholarships are still nominated by members of the community, scholarship applications will be accepted through the RCTC Foundation Scholarship portal. www.rctc.edu/scholarships

Nominated students will complete a *single scholarship application* that will apply for more than 300 RCTC Foundation scholarships, **including the OAKS scholarship**. *If a student is unsuccessful in being awarded an OAKS scholarship, their application will be considered for other scholarships that consider hardship among other factors (financial need, academics, major, experience with mental or physical illness, experience with foster care, surviving domestic abuse, single custodial parent, etc.)*

Step 1: Confirm with the student that 1) the student plans to attend RCTC, 2) is happy to be nominated for the OAKS Scholarship and be recognized publicly, 3) and is willing to write an essay describing the difficulties they have experienced and how they have overcome them.

Step 2: Complete this nomination form. You can email it to foundation@rctc.edu. Students may also submit this nomination form through the online portal until application close date of June 3, 2024.

Step 3: The student will submit a single scholarship application (which includes GPA, transcript, a statement of financial need, and essays about their future plans) through www.rctc.edu/scholarships. In the general application under Qualifying Questions, students will be asked: Have you experienced significant difficulties (such as personal or family hardships, abuse, neglect, medical issues, disabilities, chemical dependency, or language and cultural barriers) in life but have overcome them? **Answer YES. This question will trigger the OAKS follow-up request.**

- A) Student applicants for an OAKS scholarship must attach an essay describing the difficulties they have experienced, how they have overcome these obstacles, and what has been learned from their struggles. Please limit the essay to no more than two double-spaced pages.
- B) The student will be asked to complete an external request for your nomination form and letter. The student will input **your email address** into our scholarship software (AWARDSRING). **You will then receive an email requesting that you upload your nomination form and letter into the portal by June 3, 2024.** Only then is the application for the OAKS Scholarship will then be considered complete and submitted.

We recognize that this is a new process. If you have not received an email requesting the upload of this nomination form and your nomination letter, please email those documents to Foundation@rctc.edu and we can manually add those documents to their application.

Students who are shortlisted for the OAKS Scholarship will be interviewed by the selection committee in mid-to-late June, with finalists selected in July. Finalists and their nominators will be invited to “tell their story” in a brief video. Previous videos are available at www.rctc.edu/the-oaks. The OAKS Scholarship recipients and their nominators will be publicly recognized at the OAKS Scholarship Celebration. The scholarships are funded with generous donations from individuals and organizations raised at the OAKS Scholarship Celebration event.

Student applications and nomination forms and letters must be submitted by

www.rctc.edu/scholarships

June 3, 2024

Questions? Contact the RCTC Foundation at 507.281.7771 or foundation@rctc.edu