

**Rotary**  
STRIVE



Students Taking  
Renewed Interest  
in the Value of  
Education

# 2025-26 STRIVE Toolkit



# STRIVE GETTING STARTED GUIDE

## (CLUB ACTION – SCHOOL COMMITMENT – STUDENT ORIENTATION):

1. Action to be taken by the club's Board of Directors:
  - Review the components of the program - obtain a favorable vote of approval to proceed with the program.
  - Identify 1-2 Rotarians to be responsible for facilitating this program with the local school district.
  - Establish a scholarship to be awarded to the student who improves the most (again, based on Attendance, Attitude, GPA, and Participation). This scholarship will help generate some excitement amongst the students.
  - Set a date to review this program with school officials.
2. Presenting STRIVE to the local school officials. Feedback from clubs who already have a program in place share the following theme: "The hardest part about STRIVE is developing the relationship with the local school officials... but once you have that in place... the program becomes very worthwhile and often a lot of fun." When presenting this program, please highlight the following:
  - Some history about Rotary and its commitment to youth.
  - This program does not require any funding on the part of the school.
  - Talk about the uniqueness of this program in that it rewards improvement - very few programs nationally provide scholarships based on excellence through improvement.
  - The school will need to:
    - Designate a member of faculty/staff to attend the meetings.
    - Provide a meeting room for the monthly meetings
    - Identify the students that will be invited to participate.
    - Offer positive reinforcement for the participating students
    - Schedule a meeting in which the Rotary Club might present this program to the faculty. Faculty 'buy-in' is important because without it

## STRIVE GETTING STARTED GUIDE

the teacher might view this program as ‘another excuse a student isn’t attending class.’

### 3. Student Orientation... a two-step process:

- First, letters are sent to both the student and parent outlining the purpose of STRIVE and uniqueness of this special invitation to participate.
- Second, an orientation/motivation meeting is conducted. It is extremely important that a very dynamic speaker outlines the program. The anticipated outcome is that you’ll have students accept the Rotary STRIVE challenge and sign the commitment form for the year. Again, only students who sign the commitment form by the 2nd STRIVE meeting should be allowed to participate. **Don’t worry if you invited 30 students and only end up with 10 who wanted to participate beyond the 2nd meeting.** You’ll find your time spent with the 10 students much more rewarding than if you tried to implement a program to 30 of which 20 didn’t care!

## WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THE STRIVE STUDENTS MEET?

Typically one-hour or one classroom period meetings are held monthly at an early hour in the day. A typical agenda is as follows:

- Attendance is taken.
- STRIVE goals are reaffirmed: being on time for classes, working a little bit harder at classroom assignments every day, demonstrating a positive attitude, participating in school and community activities.
- Announcements about future monthly programs.
- Speaker Presentation
- Q&A time
- Back to Class

# HOW ARE TOPICS CHOSEN FOR THE MONTHLY PRESENTATIONS?

This is one of most important aspects of the STRIVE Program. The topics for each monthly presentation are chosen by the participating STRIVE students.

Therefore, STRIVE truly becomes a Student-Driven program. Upon obtaining the topics from the students, the STRIVE Rotary Facilitators will secure speakers from the community to address the topics. Typically, the speakers are not faculty or staff members from the school.

- Who attends the monthly STRIVE meetings? Answer: STRIVE Students; Rotary STRIVE facilitators; Guest Speaker; High School Staff Liaison.
- Some examples of programs suggested by students include:
  - Interviewing and Resume Writing
  - Where is Computer Programming going?
  - Interest and Goal Setting
  - Owning a small business
  - Employment expectations
  - Jobs in the manufacturing sector
  - Getting into College when your grades aren't so good

# TIPS FOR THE LUCKY FEW DESIGNATED AS THE ROTARY STRIVE COORDINATOR:

You just volunteered (or were strong-armed) to be your club's STRIVE coordinator - what do you do. The best advice is to plan the year like you would many business activities.

- Establish your year-long calendar ahead of time. Have an agenda for each meeting.
- Don't do all the work yourself. Use other Rotarians. (See list below) Have fun with the students! Take donuts and orange juice to meetings.
- Call on other STRIVE coordinators for advice and suggestions.
- Evaluate the program at the end of the year.

# THERE ARE THREE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES EACH STRIVE COORDINATOR HAS TO THE DISTRICT 6600 STRIVE PROGRAM:

1. October 31st- Send in your club participation form. This form announces your club's support of a STRIVE program.
2. October 31st- Send in your student list form. Each club is provided a "Certificate of Accomplishment" for each student signed by the District Governor. (Great for presenting at your annual High School Awards Ceremony.)
3. April 1 - Send in the Scholarship form. This form announces the student from your club who has won your local STRIVE scholarship and will be competing for the District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship(s). The District competition will occur in April 2025. Check back to [www.rotarydistrict6600.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6600.org) for more information in the spring.

## STRIVE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Each club participating in the STRIVE program awards a scholarship to the student who demonstrates the most improvement during his/her senior year. The review criteria are based on improvement in the four focal points of the STRIVE Program: Attendance, Attitude, GPA, and Participation.

One student from each local STRIVE program (typically the winner of the local scholarship) is then eligible to compete for scholarships from District 6600. We will award one \$2,000 scholarship and two \$1,000 scholarships. Both are one-time payments to the colleges. The District Scholarships are awarded based on an interview process that will occur at the District Learning Assembly on Saturday, April 18, 2026, in Findlay at a location to be determined.

## STRIVE GETTING STARTED GUIDE

# HOW DO YOU INVOLVE ALL ROTARIANS IN THIS PROGRAM?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Invite the STRIVE students to attend a Rotary Meeting. Remember to mix and mingle!
2. Plan a community service project with the students.
3. Have at least 1-2 Rotarians attend the Monthly STRIVE meetings. More is better!
4. Begin a letter writing campaign. As the club learns the interests and aspirations of each student, have members of the club write letters of encouragement to each student. This can be done throughout the school year.
5. Pick a meeting where all the money raised goes to the STRIVE program.
6. Include notes about your STRIVE program in the club's newsletter.
7. Plan a fun outing with the students. Perhaps you all go the High School Football game together. This can be especially fun if a few of your STRIVE students are on the team. Signs and loud cheers for the team can be much fun!
8. Have as many Rotarians as possible attend the annual High School Awards Assembly. How about a Rotary standing-ovation for all STRIVE students.

## STRIVE FORMS:

Go to the District website ([rotarydistrict6600.org](http://rotarydistrict6600.org)) and select the **DISTRICT PROGRAMS** page to view the STRIVE page and see the most recent documents available for download.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to:

- Know more about this program.
- Acquire a name of a STRIVE coordinator in a community near your own.
- Obtain all the necessary forms for the school year.
- Have a member of the District STRIVE team:
- Help present this program to your club board or school leaders.
- Conduct your first-ever Student Orientation Meeting.

Do not hesitate to contact us - Your District 6600 STRIVE Chair:

Carol Sobczak - **415**-269-9960 or [cas1958@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cas1958@sbcglobal.net)



Students Taking  
Renewed Interest  
in the Value of  
Education

## **2025-26 STRIVE Commitment Form**

To be completed by Student (please print):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone/Text: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the STRIVE program guidelines and Scholarship eligibility requirements. I am committed to doing my very best during my senior year.

I also understand that I must maintain a minimum of a "C" average to be eligible for any scholarships offered by the local Rotary Club and for the \$2,000 scholarship from Rotary District 6600.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return completed form to your guidance office.**



## 2025-26 STRIVE Notification Form

We are pleased to announce that a STRIVE program is underway in our community!

Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

HS Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

HS Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of students who have signed commitment forms: \_\_\_\_\_

Rotarian(s) facilitating the STRIVE program with this high school:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

The information in this form is used by the District 6600 STRIVE Team for purposes of tracking and keeping you informed about upcoming STRIVE events.

Please return completed form to [cas1958@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cas1958@sbcglobal.net)



[illegible]



## **2025-26 STRIVE Program Evaluation**

Please take a moment to complete this evaluation. We appreciate your honest and helpful thoughts about our STRIVE program. Your thoughts will be helpful as we prepare to offer this program again next year. Please type or print your evaluation on a separate page and attach if needed.

1. Share how the program helped to motivate you to improve in one or more of these areas: attitude, participation, GPA, and/or attendance.
2. What was your favorite program and why?
3. Which program was the least helpful and why?
4. What ideas do you have for next year's STRIVE program?
5. Other thoughts?

## **2025-26 STRIVE Scholarship Application Checklist**

This application for STRIVE students must include every item listed to be considered for a STRIVE Scholarship:

1. ☐ Completed Rotary District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship Form
2. ☐ Signed commitment form
3. ☐ School transcript
4. ☐ Personal statement of educational plans/goals
5. ☐ STRIVE Coordinator/school counselor appraisal
6. ☐ Signed application checklist (this document)

In submitting this application, we certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian's signature

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

**Please return completed form no later than April 1, 2026.**

**Check out [www.rotarydistrict6600.org/events](http://www.rotarydistrict6600.org/events) for more information on  
interview dates and locations in Spring 2026.**

## **STRIVE Scholarship Description and Qualifications**

The Strive program was incorporated by Rotary International, District 6600 as a major project for Rotary Clubs to implement district-wide. STRIVE is a motivational program targeted to high school seniors in or very near to the lower one-third of their class. Students are identified by the high school, sign a commitment form, and are encouraged to improve their attendance, attitude, GPA, and participation. At the end of the program, a District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship of \$2,000, renewable for a second year, is awarded. There is also a \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship awarded to the runner-up. *The number and amount of scholarships may be adjusted for this year.*

### To qualify for the District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship, an applicant must:

1. Complete the STRIVE Program hosted by his/her local Rotary Club.
2. Be age 17 or older.
3. Graduate in the spring with a high school degree and be able to pursue training within a year of graduation.
4. Attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution or technical school. Students must be enrolled in school full-time or part-time.

Qualification eligibility and award for the District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship will be determined by the District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship Committee.

### The initial process is:

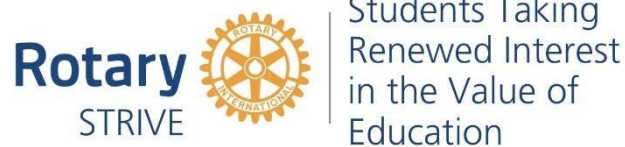
1. Rotary Clubs within District 6600 organize and conduct the STRIVE program in an area high school.
2. The high school identifies students who qualify for the STRIVE program
3. Commitment forms are signed by the students to adhere to the STRIVE program goals of improving attendance, participation, GPA, and attitude.

### Deadlines to remember for the 2025-26 STRIVE Program:

1. STRIVE Committees in each participating school should choose the top five candidates in their program. Complete this process by late-March.
2. Your local Rotary Scholarship Committee should choose the top candidate.
  - a. **Deadline to notify the District STRIVE Committee is April 1, 2025.**
  - b. Submit scholarship packet used to make this decision so that it is received by the deadline above.
    - i. E-mail [cas1958@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cas1958@sbcglobal.net)
    - ii. US Mail to Carol Sobczak, 2316 Middlesex Dr, Toledo OH 43606.

3. The STRIVE finalist will then be accompanied by a club representative and/or a parent/guardian to the District STRIVE Competition to be held in Spring 2025. Visit [www.rotarydistrict6600.org/events](http://www.rotarydistrict6600.org/events) for more information on interview sites and dates.

A panel of Rotarians will select the winner(s) and runner-up(s) at this time. The interview process is anticipated to conclude by 2 p.m. A more formal schedule will be developed after the April 1 deadline when all applications have been received.



## 2025-26 Rotary District 6600 STRIVE Scholarship Form

**Student Instructions:** Please complete this form prior to your interview with the Rotary Club. Take this form with you to that interview. Use separate page(s) and attach if more space is needed. Be truthful and accurate in your responses. Please print or complete in Word. Thank you and good luck!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List Honors and Awards you have received:

---

---

List extracurricular activities:

---

---

Employment experience:

---

---

---

What was your grade point average (GPA) at the end of last year: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA (from counselor or transcript) \_\_\_\_\_

Missed school days (last school year)? \_\_\_\_\_ This School Year? \_\_\_\_\_

What is STRIVE? (Not what the letters stand for, but what it has meant to you?)

---

---

---

In specific terms, how would you use the scholarship if you won?

---

---

---

What courses are you going to take if you win this scholarship?

---

---

---

Have you met with the admissions office at the school you plan to attend?

---