DISCUSSION/DIRECTION:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK RISING STAR SCHOLARSHIP

YOUTH COMMISSION

DECEMBER 8, 2025

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK COLORADO

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

- The Town of Castle Rock Rising Star supports the power of **Recognition** for the Castle Rock Youth Commission
    - “Support the Castle Rock community by developing, organizing and planning recognition programs for youth.”

- This program aims to foster civic engagement, celebrate local youth leadership and strengthen ties between the Town and its residents

- Surrounding Youth Commissions offer similar scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- Honor local high school seniors who have made significant positive contributions in the community
  - Must be a senior in high school, graduating this spring
  - Either live in or attend a high school in Castle Rock
    - Homeschool students living in Castle Rock are encouraged to apply
  - Explain positive involvement in community

- Up to four $1,000 scholarships would be awarded
  - Initially from the Youth Commission's budget
    - Vision includes Youth Commission members pursuing sponsorships toward the scholarships in the future – still working on a Extra Contribution Policy through the Town
  - Nonrenewable and directly distributed to the recipient's choice of continuing education
    - Students attending trade schools are encouraged to apply

APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application process for interested students would have four parts:
    1. Fill out an application form online at CRgov.com/RisingStar
    2. Submit a personal statement, sharing future aspirations and the impacts of contributions to the community to date. This could be in the form of writing, photo journal, slide deck or video essay.
    3. Submit a letter of support from a non-family member that speaks to the contributions.
    4. Fill out a media release form.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- 2026 applications would be accepted February 3 through March 31
  - Youth Commissioners will score applications using a rubric to ensure fair and consistent evaluation
  - Recipients will be celebrated at the May 5 Town Council meeting.

- Our communications plan starts February 3:
  - Attend the Town Council meeting on Feb. 3 and announce the opening of the scholarship
  - Publish webpage
  - Post on the Town's social media sites
  - Launch a news release
  - Release electronic flyers to local high schools
  - Distribute hard copy flyers to high schools and local businesses
  - Work with councilors and admins to announce the opportunity for seniors

Town of Castle Rock Colorado

Rising Star Scholarship

PRESENTED BY THE CASTLE ROCK YOUTH COMMISSION

Eligibility criteria

- You must be a senior in high school, graduating in spring 2026
- You have to live in Castle Rock or attend a high school in Castle Rock. Homeschool students living in Castle Rock may apply
- You should be able to explain how you've been involved in community service or made other positive contributions to our community

Award details

- You will be notified by April 20 if you are selected as a scholarship recipient
- Recipients will be celebrated at an award ceremony during the Town Council meeting on May 5 at 6 p.m.
- At least four winners will receive a $1,000 award each
- Scholarships will go directly to higher education institutions and are nonrenewable

Applications open Feb. 3 through March 31

Contact bschnorr@CRgov.com with questions.
Learn more at CRgov.com/RisingStar.

Scan to learn more

There is no cost to participate in the scholarship application process.

2025 RECIPIENTES

Maya Ayres, Douglas County High School
- Colorado School of Mines, Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering

MariaJose Miranda, Colorado Early Colleges
- Colorado University Boulder, Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology

Ren Rosenberg, Ponderosa High School
- Brigham Young University, Mechanical Engineering and Business Strategy

Kaelani Salinas, Colorado Early Colleges
- New Mexico State University, Actuarial Sciences and Insurance

PROPOSED MOTION

“I move to approve the Rising Star Scholarship as presented.”