



Alice Sakahara Memorial Scholarship

The Alice Sakahara Memorial Scholarship is in honor of Alice Sakahara, former Gilroy Unified School District “head” secretary at Gilroy High School for 42 years. Alice was a Gilroy High icon. Ask any staff member and they cited that “Alice ran Gilroy High.” She was devoted to the students, loved the staff and was loyal to the administration. She loved Gilroy High sports and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2000. This scholarship is meant to inspire and support students who aspire a career in education or vocational education and demonstrated leadership, citizenship, and community service.

2026 Criteria

- Graduates of Gilroy High School,
- Has applied to a community college or four (4) year college or university for approved degree programs or accredited vocational program/ school.
- Students who aspire a career in education or Vocational Education.
- Students must have community service with the Garlic Festival or other community organizations. Please reflect on the importance of community service in your personal statement.
- Students must have demonstrated leadership in school, athletics, extra-curricular activities.
- Students must have a GPA of 2.8 or better.
- Students who might not otherwise be financially able to obtain a college degree.

Amount

The scholarship in the amount of \$750 will be awarded at the beginning of a student’s college career on a one-time basis.

Selection Committee Membership

- Gene Sakahara retired GUSD principal and District Office administrator,
- Past President of Gilroy Garlic Festival Association Gena Sakahara-Gonzales, former GHS teacher and Athletic Director, Fortune Gonzales, GHS Government teacher.
- Other community members/ Gilroy High staff members as needed.

Selection will be held in March/April and Award Certificate(s) will be presented at the GHS Senior Award Ceremony.

Payment

When the recipient is registered at a college, payment will be made directly to the educational institution. Students need to send proof of registration, name, and address of the school to:

scholarships@gilroyfoundation.org

The award must be redeemed by December 11, 2026, or be forfeited.

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Completed online GUSD Common Scholarship Application.
2. Three letters of recommendation: two letters from a staff member-teacher, ACs, Aps, and one letter from a community service supervisor (non-school staff member nor relative).
3. A copy of the applicant's unofficial high school transcript.

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