

O.J. THOMAS ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

On behalf of O.J. and Bessie Thomas, the O.J. Thomas Alumni is pleased to offer each C.H. Yoe High School graduating senior the opportunity to apply for scholarship funds to pursue excellence through additional education. It was the desire of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas to provide this gift to the youth of Cameron to help realize dreams and create compelling futures. It is the hope of the Scholarship Committee that these two fine people will be in your thoughts as your progress through your lives.

Goals & Objectives of the Alumni

1. The O.J. Thomas Scholarship has been established to honor the contributions of Oscar John (OJ) and his wife Bessie Thomas who secured funding from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation to build a modern school for black students in 1925. The school was named O.J. Thomas in honor of Oscar John Thomas. Under Thomas' leadership from 1923-1938, 258 students graduated. Eighty-five percent of the graduates attended college.
2. To produce an educational system for the overall development of children in Cameron.
3. To provide C.H. Yoe High School graduates opportunities to realize their potential through continuing education.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must live within the district and have attended C.H. Yoe High School for at least 2 years.
- Must be graduating in the Spring of the current year.
- Must provide a brief written statement as to how any funds received will be utilized to enhance their future, with their application.
- Must meet at least a 90% attendance for each year in high school. We define attendance as in-person attendance. The following does **NOT** count for attendance: virtual check-ins or excused absences. School-related absences do count as attendance.
- Must have no serious disciplinary referrals. Examples include violence, vandalism, and possession of illegal substances.
- Must be a good citizen. Convictions of crimes deemed serious by the Alumni will result in your exclusion from scholarship consideration. You cannot apply for this scholarship if you have felony or misdemeanor charges. If charges are pending but you have pleaded guilty, you cannot apply for this scholarship. If you have been charged but have not admitted guilt, you can apply for this scholarship however, the Alumni will withhold scholarship funds until court proceedings are final, and you have been cleared of all charges.
- Must complete 20 hours of documented community service completed at O.J. Thomas Community Resource Center, the Alumni will document the hours. The first 10 hours must be completed by April 18, 2022, and the additional 10 hours completed by July 16, 2022.

General Funds Allocation

General Scholarship: (student with the highest GPA that wants to attend a 2-year junior college or 4-year university). 2- scholarship up to \$1000. Student must attend an accredited junior college or university like Temple Junior College, Austin Community College and/or Mary Hardin Baylor University, Texas A&M with the goal of earning a degree in a field with high job demand. The Yoe High School counselor must approve the field of study.

- Career & Technical Scholarship: (student with the highest GPA that wants to attend a vocational school, not a 4-year University). 3- scholarships up to \$1,000. Students must attend an accredited vocational school like TSTC with the goal of earning a vocational degree and license in a field with high job demand. The Yoe High School counselor must approve the field of study. Approved fields include medical professions (. e.g., nurse and dental hygienist), trades (e.g., plumber, electrician) or technology (e.g., computer programmer).

Beginning with the class of 2022 the 4th quarter of the class can only use scholarships towards accredited trade school and certification programs such as firemen school, beauty school or truck driving school.

Notes

- These funds are only available if the O.J. Thomas Alumni has the money. This is not a promise or a contract. If the O.J. Thomas Alumni does not in its sole discretion determine it has the money to award scholarships it will notify C.H. Yoe High School immediately.
- Fund awards may be restructured based on UIL rules and regulations.
- The O.J. Thomas Alumni reserves the right to modify awards based on funds availability and/or other needs as determined by the Alumni Board in his sole discretion.
- Under no circumstances will funds provided (excess or other) be disbursed or returned to the applicant.