

AACA Youth Scholarships

by Greg Jackson, Vice President - Youth
Development and Award Programs



Application deadline December 1, 2024

AACA has a strong commitment to students who have demonstrated an active interest and participation in the antique car hobby through restoration, preservation, and/or ownership of antique cars. The perpetuation of our hobby from one generation to the next is enhanced as AACA awards three types of \$1,500 scholarships. In addition, privately funded scholarships are awarded as funds become available. Awards will be presented in conjunction with AACA's national awards as part of AACA's Annual Convention in February.

AACA Headquarters • 800 West Hersheypark Drive, Hershey PA 17033 • 717-534-1910 • AACA.org

JOHN & JANET RICKETTS LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Granted by the family of John and Janet Ricketts in recognition of their love for AACA and their belief in service to the club. This scholarship is also in recognition of AACA's first female national president, Janet Ricketts, who served in 1999. The award is available to any AACA member, child, or grandchild of an AACA member who has been in good standing for at least five years; has demonstrated active interest in AACA through participation in its programs, OR shown active interest in the hobby of antique vehicles through restoration, preservation, or ownership of such vehicles; has submitted a required essay that demonstrates the candidate's history of leadership in scholastic or extra-curricular activities; and who has been accepted to an institution of higher learning or is now enrolled in the institution. Region or chapter membership is encouraged but not required.

SUSQUEHANNOCK REGION AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

Formerly known as the Student Scholarship Award, this scholarship is granted to a student enrolled in an automotive technology and/or restoration program at an accredited institution. The applicant must be nominated by a letter of recommendation from a faculty member at the institution they are attending. The student must also be an AACA member (either regular or student) and must provide transcripts and a resumé.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

The AACA Young People's Award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the successful operation of an AACA region or chapter, and/or has demonstrated a sustained active interest in owning, restoring or preserving antique vehicles or automobilia. The candidate, parent or grandparent must be an AACA member in good standing for a minimum of five years, and the candidate must be nominated by a region or chapter. The minutes of the meeting where the nomination occurred must be included with the application, along with a copy of the letter of acceptance to the institution they are or will be attending. In addition, a resumé, essay and transcripts are required with the application.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The AACA Scholarship Award, granted to encourage individuals to further their education and stimulate interest in AACA and the history of vehicles in general, has the same requirements as the Young People's Award Scholarship, except nomination by a region or chapter is no longer required.

LOUISE BIANCHI CHIOTTI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Louise (Bianchi) Chiotti was born on June 11, 1914 in San Jose, California. The family's first automobile was a 1926 Dodge sedan. Her two younger brothers purchased a new Studebaker and took delivery in January 1939. They wanted to give it to Louise's son, Dave, in 1956. His mother thought it too big a car for a 15-year-old in San Francisco and talked Dave into buying a 1930 Ford coupe. In 1959 the little Ford was a bit slow, so Dave purchased a 1959 Ford convertible. As he sat on the running board of the Ford waiting for the new owner to arrive, his mom came and sat next to him. "You really don't want to sell it, do you?" she asked. David replied in the negative. "Then don't," she said. Dave and Marilyn Chiotti still own the Model A, and it has become an AACA Annual Grand National Award winner. The 1939 Studebaker came to the Chiottis after spending 40 years under a walnut tree. It is also an AACA Annual Grand National Award winner. The 1926 Dodge was cut into a truck for ranch use in the 1940s. Dave brought it home in 1976 and built a woodie. In 2000, they donated it to Luther Burbank Home & Gardens in Santa Rosa.

This scholarship is based upon the same rules as the AACA Automotive Technology award and is awarded as funds are available. It was instituted and funded by Dave and Marilyn Chiotti as a way to honor Louise and a way to continue to support youth in the hobby.

HERSHEY REGION AACA AUTOMOTIVE RESTORATION SCHOLARSHIP

This award is granted by the Hershey Region to further student education and stimulate interest in AACA and automotive history and restoration. One or more awards may be presented each year. Selection will be made by the AACA Scholarship Award Committee, the current president of the Hershey Region, and current chair of the region education committee.



Requirements and Application Forms

Be sure to get a copy of the requirements and application form from AACA headquarters (or online at aaca.org/scholarships/), as they have been summarized for this article. Applications must be received by December 1st and should be filled out completely, clearly marked with the name of the desired scholarship, and have all necessary documentation attached. Application submission is preferred as a .pdf, via email to dpnolen1@gmail.com, or send by USPS to the AACA VP Youth Development and Awards, Debbie Nolen, 5805 Centralia Rd, North Chesterfield VA 23237. Faxed applications are not accepted.