Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad
Betty Himoto Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Friends of the Santa Maria Valley Railroad is pleased to announce an annual scholarship for eligible students within Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. We have established the Betty Himoto Memorial Scholarship. An annual scholarship of $2500 will be awarded based on merit to a qualifying student pursuing a degree or technical training in the Industrial Arts with a career goal in the rail industry.

Amount of Scholarship Award:
$2,500

Eligibility:
An applicant must be enrolled (or accepted and planning to attend) as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited college or university, or a full-time industrial arts technical training student on the Central California Coast (San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara Counties). Applicants must be enrolled in courses in industrial arts, technical vocational training, or industrial engineering courses including industrial arts, industrial technology, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering and agricultural engineering. Preference will be given to applicants preparing for a career in railroads and related areas. Preferred schools are: Hancock College, Cuesta College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, University of California Santa Barbara, and Santa Barbara City College. Other schools will be considered based on students background and goals.

Application Process:
Applications will be accepted between October 1, 2026 and March 31, 2027. All materials, including references letters and transcripts, must be postmarked or submitted via email/on line by March 31, 2027 to be considered. For academic year 2027-2028, candidates will be notified of the Committee's decision by April 30, 2027. The 2027-2028 scholarship application timeline is as follows:
1.) Application Window: October 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.
2.) Candidate Notification: April 30, 2027.
3.) Awards Presentation: August 14, 2027.

The application must consist of the following:
1.) This application.
2.) An official transcript from high schools, vocational schools (as applicable), and colleges (as applicable) attended for all work through prior year (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).
3.) Three letters of recommendation (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).
4.) A narrative, not exceeding 1,000 words, on a separate page as detailed in section F of this application.

All materials should be submitted to the following US Mail address or email address:

FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD
P.O. BOX 1031
SANTA MARIA, CA 93456-1031

scholarship@friends-smvrr.org

If you have questions or problems, contact us via email at scholarship@friends-smvrr.org.

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FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This scholarship will be awarded on merit and is intended for students interested in a Railroad Industry career.

Be sure to submit all of the following prior to the deadline.

1.) This application.

2.) An official transcript from high schools, vocational schools, and colleges (as applicable) attended for all work through prior year (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).

3.) Three letters of recommendation (arrange to be sent directly to Friends-SMVRR via US Mail or email).

4.) A narrative, not exceeding 1,000 words, on a separate page as detailed in section F of this application.

Please type or print the following information, attaching additional sheets if more space is needed.

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME:

_____

First Middle Last

HOME ADDRESS:

_____

Street

_____

City State Zip

CONTACT INFO:

_____

Telephone Number

_____

E-Mail Address

_____

Personal Website

_____

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Youtube

B. EDUCATION

Complete all sections where applicable.
Include High School, Vocational/Industrial Schools, Community Colleges, and Universities.
(Attach additional sheets if needed)

_____

High School - Name | Location (City & State) | Dates From/To (Month Year)

_____

Other School #1 - Name | Location (City & State) | Dates From/To (Month Year)

_____

Other School #2 - Name | Location (City & State) | Dates From/To (Month Year)

_____

Present School - Name | Location (City & State) | Dates From/To (Month Year)

_____ _____ _____

Present School Current GPA | Expected Date of Graduation | Degree/Certification Goal

_____

Previous Degrees and Certifications Received - Name of Institution | Degree | Subject

Additional Education Information (if needed)

_____

_____

_____

C. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

List professional societies, civic organizations, sports, important committees or other significant organizations or activities in which you participate.

_____
_____
_____

List honors or special awards in recognition of your professional or community activities:

_____
_____
_____

D. WORK EXPERIENCE

CURRENT OR RECENT:

_____ _____
Employer's Name: Phone:

_____
Address:

_____ _____
Dates of Employment: From To

_____
Title of Position

_____
Brief Description of Duties:

May we contact this employer for information? Yes _____ No _____
Do you intend to work for your present employer after completion of your studies? Yes _____ No _____

PREVIOUS:

_____ _____
Employer's Name: Phone:

_____
Address:

_____ _____
Dates of Employment: From To

_____
Title of Position

_____
Brief Description of Duties:

May we contact this employer for information? Yes _____ No _____

Additional Work Information (if needed)

_____

_____

_____

_____

E. REFERENCES AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Provide the names and addresses of three references who will write letters of recommendation for you. Include one faculty member at the school in which you are currently enrolled and other references of your own choosing. It is your responsibility to obtain the references and request that they submit their letters directly to Friends-SMVRR postmarked no later than March 31st.

REFERENCE NO. 1:

_____

Name Title Company

REFERENCE NO. 2:

_____

Name Title Company

REFERENCE NO. 3:

_____

Name Title Company

F. NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Prepare a narrative, not exceeding 1,000 words, on a separate page with your name at the top. In your narrative include the following. Please try to focus your answers on how your studies relate to the rail industry.

1. A brief description of your present and any future study program;
2. Any research projects or school activities in which you are now or have been involved;
3. Why you feel you are deserving of this scholarship;
4. Future employment plans;
5. Your professional goals and aspirations after graduation;
6. A brief discussion of your interest in rail transportation; and
7. Any other pertinent information you feel important to your application.

I hereby certify that all statements contained in this application are correct and, if selected, I agree to utilize the monies for the purpose stated:

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

MAIL APPLICATION, NARRATIVE, TRANSCRIPTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SANTA MARIA VALLEY RAILROAD
P.O. BOX 1031
SANTA MARIA, CA 93456-1031

OR EMAIL ITEMS TO scholarship@friends-smvrr.org