

## 2026 CAN MAN TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP, IN MEMORY OF ROGER KLEIN (1938-2020)

**History:** For 40 years Roger Klein rode and pushed his tricycle to and throughout Hot Springs and beyond, up and down the steep hills, collecting cans to recycle, no matter the weather. By mid-day his tricycle would be heavily laden with bags of cans, yet he somehow managed to strap more to the load. Locals quickly learned to save their cans for Roger, who would collect and store them until he could haul them up to Rapid City for recycling.

Roger's work ethic was not unlike that of the dedicated ranchers whose land surrounds Hot Springs. Bitter cold, pouring rain and relentless heat never stopped a cattleman from caring for his herd and never stopped Roger from his daily work. He used his earnings for spending money, travel and charitable donations. Although most of us only saw him in his work coveralls or ragged shirts, Roger was a dapper dresser when he traveled or took his mother out for dinner at Maverick Junction, wearing one of his many elegant suits and ties, his patent leather shoes polished to a high shine. He never finished high school but would happily talk politics and current events with the many people who stopped to visit with him throughout his day—perhaps that is why his 'day' often stretched until well after dark.

Roger lived his entire life with his mother, Gweneth, until she passed in 2018, then continued to live in the family home until 2020, when he walked out to check his mail one day and stepped into the path of an oncoming car. Roger was 80 years old; his lanky body was bent to a 45-degree angle from 40 years of pushing his heavy loads.

**The Scholarship:** Community members, with the blessing of Roger's brother, Bob, created this trade scholarship to honor the memory of Roger Klein, Hot Springs' South Dakota's beloved 'Can Man'. A nonprofit was formed, with the mission: "... to further the pursuit of skilled trades as occupations that bring value and meaning to our nation's economy and to her culture of individual purpose and community strength."

Scholarship amounts are not pre-defined but vary based on funds available each year. The community has been incredibly generous and supportive in growing the fund. The Selection Committee determines annual awards based on the amount of money available and the applicant's qualifications.

### Eligibility Criteria

These scholarships are intended to further the applicants' certification in vocational trades, rather than in baccalaureate or advanced degrees. While these trade certifications may be achieved by earning associate degrees, they may also be certifications of any sort that qualify one for a trade, whether that certification can be achieved in weeks, months or years. Apprenticeship programs may qualify.

- An applicant should be one or more of the following: 1. A resident of Fall River or Custer County in South Dakota. 2. A graduate of a high school in either county. ('High school' includes public, private and home-school). 3. The recipient of a high school equivalency certification earned while residing in one of those counties. (If applicant has not received a high school diploma or equivalency but is accepted by the education program and has lived in either of these counties, his application may be considered.)
- There are no age restrictions. Non-traditional students are encouraged to apply.
- Weight may be given to regional schools, but there are no geographical restrictions.
- Applicant must have been accepted to and scheduled to begin the certification program within 12 months of application deadline or already be in the programs.
- Payout of the scholarship award will be made directly to the school/program. Weight may be given to programs based in part on their perceived benefit to the needs of the region.

### CRITICAL APPLICATION DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE is March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026: E-mail to: [canmanfund@gmail.com](mailto:canmanfund@gmail.com) or U.S. mail: Can Man Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 876, Hot Springs, SD 57747, postmarked NO LATER THAN March 15 2026. (U.S. mail submissions not postmarked by March 15 2026 and received by March 20 2026 may be rejected.) IF WE DO NOT CONFIRM RECEIPT OF YOUR APPLICATION WITHIN ONE WEEK OF SUBMISSION, please contact us immediately at 605-890-1515 or [canmanfund@gmail.com](mailto:canmanfund@gmail.com)**

**2026 APPLICATION FOR CAN MAN TRADE SCHOLARSHIP, IN MEMORY OF ROGER KLEIN**

**Your answers should be clear, concise, and complete. Handwritten submissions are acceptable but must be neat and legible. Please attach your answers on a separate sheet if you need extra space.**

**REQUIRED:**

- 1) Attach three written recommendations. Examples might include but are not limited to: Employer, Supervisor, Co-worker, Mentor, Teacher, Coach; from employment, self-employment, family business, volunteer activity or personal connection.
- 2) You must have been ACCEPTED into the certification program to be considered for this scholarship.

**Applicant's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of school:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of program/certification:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How many SEMESTERS, QUARTERS or CREDITS (circle one) are required in the program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you already start the program?** \_\_\_\_\_ **If yes, how many semesters, quarters or credit are needed to complete the program?** \_\_\_\_\_

**COST:** Total tuition: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **If materials are required, such as books, uniforms, computer, tools, but are NOT included in tuition fees, what are those materials and what is the total cost of those materials? Describe:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have already started your program, how much will it cost to complete it?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you received a Build Dakota scholarship or any other full scholarship?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you received a Can Man Scholarship in the past?** \_\_\_\_\_ **If YES, when:** \_\_\_\_\_ **How much was the award?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Involvement:** Please tell us about any volunteer, community, church, extra-curricular activities, offices held, and/or awards received. Please also include the year(s) in which you were involved in each effort.

**Employment Experience:** Please tell us about your self-employment or employment experiences.

**Eligibility Certification:** Please check all that apply.

I did/will graduate from \_\_\_\_\_ (name/city of school) in Fall River or Custer County. I did/will graduate (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

I was/am a Homeschool student while living in Fall River/Custer County: \_\_\_\_\_ (city). I did/will graduate (month/year): \_\_\_\_\_

I did not graduate but earned high school equivalency (e.g. GED) while living in Fall River/Custer County: \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year)

I currently reside in Fall River or Custer County.

I have been accepted to the program listed above and will begin training: \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year) (Please do not apply if you are not accepted to the program.)

I am already attending the program listed above and expect to complete that program by: \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year)

## 2026 ESSAY QUESTIONS

**Maximum 300 words per question. Your answers should be clear, concise, and complete. Pay attention to grammar and spelling. Handwritten is acceptable but must be neat and legible.**  
**Please attach your answers on a separate sheet if you need extra space.**

Applicant's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

**What are your plans for your occupational future and why did you choose that occupation?**

**Is there anything else you would like to add? (example: special financial/personal circumstance that may affect our consideration)**

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