



Shine: Play It Forward

The scholarship where character Counts...

Recognizing exceptional ability, encouraging integrity, and community responsibility.

Shine: Play It Forward, is a 501 (c) 3 and was developed to recognize the life's work of, Tom Shine. In 2021, Tom lost his courageous seven-year battle with cancer. Through his life and ultimate journey, fighting cancer, Tom demonstrated strength and an unrelenting positive attitude. This strength has become the backbone for us to follow. Our mission is: *A commitment to service excellence, through supporting academic, athletic, and leadership development in youth.*

Tom was a student, athlete, coach and impactful contributor in life. Through his journey, Tom witnessed values and lessons of hard work, honesty, ruthless integrity and the ability to face adversity and challenges with calm, stoic bravery. Tom took those lessons to heart, striving for achievement in both his personal and professional life. Tom believed in academics, the sport, the coaches, the school's and each other, while creating legendary moments. Service gave Tom purpose, drive, success and defeat . . . all with character. Tom transformed players into coaches and changed their lives into who they are today. Many have gone on to live, teach, coach, and perform based on Tom's teachings, leadership, and guidance . . . that is a gift no-one can buy! Not only was teaching and coaching a job, it became a life style that developed Tom into a man of integrity, commitment, and character. As an El Modena Hall of Fame inductee, Tom left his indelible mark at El Modena High School.

The Shine: Play It Forward Scholarship program recognizes high school seniors for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact within their school, sport, and most importantly, within their communities. The scholarship recognizes athletes of character who are community-minded and driven to use their exceptional talents for the benefit of all... those who dare to be great.

Scholarship Awards: \$1,000 scholarships

- Scholarships are not renewable and are for one year only.
- The one-time award stipend will be paid in one installment. The check will be issued to the scholarship recipient at the Hall of Fame Dinner.
- Further questions about scholarships, eligibility, and athletic compliance may be addressed by contacting the Shine: Play It Forward Scholarship committee at: <https://www.shineplayitforward.com> or brendashine@me.com.

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Applicants Must

- **Learn:** Have a cumulative weighted high school grade point average (GPA) of a B (3.0) or better in grades 9, 10, and 11. Be in their senior year of high school during the 2025–2026 academic year, graduating with the class of 2026.
- **Perform:** Participate or have participated in grades 9, 10, or 11 in a CIF sanctioned sport. Demonstrate leadership and coach-ability. Be someone who “shines” on the field. Be involved in every activity. Set the example in their school, sport, and community.
- **Lead:** Be a proven leader and role model who exhibits leadership characteristics as for underclassman. Participate in volunteer service, community involvement and leadership within their school, sport, and community.

Application Process

1. When the application process opens, the athletic director, coaches and counselors will be notified.
2. Choose a Reviewer: Each applicant, will need to ask a school official to review their application. This review must be completed in order to qualify for the Shine: Play It Forward scholarship program. The school official can be the coach counselor, or teacher at the high school. It's a good idea to check with the official before starting.
3. Students must provide the full name and accurate email address of the school official who will review the application and its contents, and confirm its accuracy. This school official cannot be related to nor a parent/guardian of the student.
4. The school official will then become the student's reviewer.
5. Eligible students may then continue to fill out the application.
6. Each applicant must provide a letter of reference from the reviewer supporting the applicant's school, sport and community involvement.
7. Once submitted, all applications will be reviewed by the Shine: Play It Forward scholarship committee. The Shine: Play It Forward scholarship committee will communicate award recipients to the identified school officials.

Deadlines

1. We encourage students to submit their application as early as possible to allow time for the Shine: Play It Forward scholarship committee and school officials to review for accuracy.
2. The application must be reviewed by the school official listed in the application prior to submission.
3. Students must submit their application NO LATER THAN midnight, **May 10, 2026**.
4. Once the student completes and submits the application, she/he and the reviewer will receive an email from brendashine@me.com within 72 hours of the closing date. Please add brendashine@me.com to your address book or safe list so the email will not be blocked by a spam filter. The email will verify receipt of the application. If more than one student chooses an official as a reviewer, the official will receive a separate email for each student needing a review.

Important Reminders

1. One of the common oversights is failure to submit prior to the deadline.
2. The student's application must be submitted NO LATER THAN midnight, **May 10, 2026**.

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SCHOOL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO DO IT ALL

The Shine: Play It Forward Scholarship is your chance to recognize well-rounded seniors who learn, perform, and lead on a daily basis.

Your Role: Refer a Student. Your school can have an unlimited number of applicants. Talk to seniors who excel academically, athletically, and within your community and encourage them to apply for the Shine: Play It Forward Scholarship.

Direct students to this site for program details. Be sure to encourage students to complete their applications early so that school officials will have plenty of time to carefully review the applications while allowing enough time to work with those students who need to correct and resubmit their applications.

Become a Reviewer

- Each applicant must select one school official to review his/her application. The reviewer must be a teacher or coach at the student's school and cannot be related to the student.
- If a student selects you as a reviewer, make sure the student has your full name and correct email address—he or she will need to enter this information on the online application.
- After your student completes and submits the application, you will receive an email from shineplayitforward.com within 72 hours. Please add shineplayitforward.com to your address book or safe list so the email will not be blocked by a spam filter. The email will contain instructions about the application. If more than one student chooses you as a reviewer, you will receive a separate email for each student needing a review.

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