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## 2026 Chris Branham Memorial Foundation Trade School Scholarship Application

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**Christopher Thomas Branham** was born in Brunssum, The Netherlands on October 14, 1993. He spent most of his early childhood in Round Rock, Texas where he attended Forest Creek Elementary, Ridgeview Middle School, Success High School, and graduated from Stony Point High School. He went on to attend Florida Technical College while living in South Florida. Chris was fortunate to have had many great experiences and opportunities during his short life. He traveled to a dozen countries, played competitive baseball, and excelled at golf and several other sports. At just 23 years of age, Chris became a small business owner, got married, and was a young father of two. Tragedy struck on June 24, 2020, as Chris' life was cut short on that horrific day, at the hands of others. It was not until 37 days after his life was taken that he was found, after extensive searches by family, friends, law enforcement, and Search & Rescue organizations. The amazing people from Round Rock and surrounding communities came together and embraced the Branhams with love, support, many prayers, and an incredible number of offers to help search for Chris. To celebrate his memory and give back to the community, the family has established the **Chris Branham Memorial Foundation** as part of the Central Texas Community Foundation to raise funds for causes that were important to Chris. These causes are focused on trade school scholarships for local high school graduates and financial support for youth sports organizations. In addition, having experienced first-hand what is all involved in ground, water, and air searches for the missing, and how incredibly important this work is, the foundation also awards grants to non-profit Search & Rescue Organizations; one of whom assisted in the search for Christopher. #**FOREVER26**

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Deadline for scholarship applications is **May 31, 2026**.
- Only fully complete applications will be considered by the Foundation Committee.
- Winners will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Winners will be announced and contacted on **June 21, 2026**.
- Each application shall be considered on its merits, and grants will be awarded at the sole discretion of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee.
- All decisions made by the Scholarship Committee are final.
- Scholarships will be awarded directly to the college of choice. The first half of the scholarship will be awarded upon completion of the provisional period. The remainder will be awarded 30 days before graduation, provided the student meets the school's attendance requirements and contacts us. If a student leaves or drops out of school, the second half of the scholarship will be forfeited by the student and will not be awarded.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Resident Status:** The applicant must be a **Williamson or Travis County** resident who is enrolling in an in person or hybrid trade school program at a public or private college.
- **Diploma Requirements:** The applicant must have a high school diploma or must be eligible to receive his/her high school diploma in the year the application is submitted.
- **Enrollment Requirements:** The applicant must meet the enrollment requirements for the intended college or program.
- **Aspirations:** The applicant must enroll in a trade school program to pursue a post-high school program or education or training (college or vocational school). This includes but is not limited to programs in the automotive, welding, allied health, CNC machining, barbering, cosmetology, electrical, or HVAC careers.
- **Character:** The applicant must have exhibited good citizenship traits and be of sound moral character.
- **Post-High School Program:** The applicant must plan to attend college on a full-time basis and start their program within 1 year of application submission.

## **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

- Complete application (please type or print clearly).
- List the college, vocational or trade school, and program you intend to enroll in.
- List any extracurricular and/or community activities you have led or participated in.
- List any work experience with job title, employer, dates, and hours per week on the job.
- A short essay on how pursuing the trade of your choice will help you achieve your career goals.
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals not related to you: preferably teachers or education administrators.

NOTE: Scholarship winners must agree to have their photo published on the Foundation's website and social media. By submitting a scholarship application, you agree to the requirements listed on page 1 and 2.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – 2026 CHRIS BRANHAM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION:**

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**(Please Type or Print Clearly)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School you attend (or graduated from): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Expected or Completed High School Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College/School and program you are applying to: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any extracurricular and/or community activities you have led or participate(d) in:

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Please list any work experience with job title, employer, dates, and # of hours per week on the job:

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Applications are open to any race, creed, color, or gender. We encourage young parents to apply.

Be sure to complete the entire application with all items listed on the application checklist included, and email to [forever26@chrisbranhamfoundation.org](mailto:forever26@chrisbranhamfoundation.org) on or before the **May 31, 2026**, deadline.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*\*DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR ESSAY AND RECOMMENDATIONS!  
WITH YOUR APPLICATION**