



San Joaquin Valley
Chapter

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Student Applicant,

The American Petroleum Institute San Joaquin Valley Chapter awards scholarships to young men and women who wish to pursue a career in the petroleum industry, energy industry, or a closely related field. These scholarships are awarded to hard working, dedicated, and deserving students who are graduating high school seniors or continuing college students who will be attending college or trade school in the fall. When submitting your applications for consideration, we expect students to be straightforward and sincere.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Scholarship Application Data Sheet (attached): You may organize the information required on the Data Sheet in resume form if you wish.
2. Letters of Recommendation: A minimum of two and a maximum of three **recent** letters **with the date included on the letter. Please do not use previously submitted letters of recommendation as they will not be counted.** A school instructor who is familiar with your current academic accomplishments should submit at least one of these.
3. Academic Transcript: Must be on high school/college/university letterhead. Please submit current or most recent transcript showing courses taken and grades earned during the past two years.
4. Proof of Enrollment: Recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours) at an accredited college or university. Proof of enrollment must be received prior to disbursement of scholarship funds but is not required at the time of submittal of the scholarship application.
5. Essay: Please submit a short essay of approximately 500 words for two essay questions and 200 words for the informational question that are found later in the application.
6. Email Documents: Applications will be required to be emailed to all committee members. Scan and attach all documents in .pdf format. Transcripts and letters of recommendations can be sent via U.S. Mail if needed, but we prefer that these letters be attached to an email and emailed to all committee members in one message. If it is necessary that you need to mail the application, we will accept it, but **the preference is by email. Please address all emails to all committee members as a group message so that we can each verify that we received them.** For any hardships, please contact the Scholarship Committee Chair below.



San Joaquin Valley Chapter

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications must be received no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Post mark must be dated no later than March 31, 2026, if received by mail to the below address. Hand delivered by 4:00 pm to address below. Email no later than 11:59 pm to email addresses below. Again, email is preferred.

Scholarship recipients will be contacted by Friday, May 15, 2026 by email.

Scholarship recipients, or their approved proxies, are encouraged to attend the awards dinner, Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Information on dinner will follow.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. All information must be complete, accurate, and verifiable.
2. Recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours) at an accredited college, university, or trade school and be a current resident of Kern County. Proof of enrollment is required prior to disbursement of funds, but not necessary at the time of scholarship application.
3. The selected essay questions must be addressed completely. The essays will be evaluated on content, grammar, organization, and originality.
4. Applications will be evaluated based upon the factors written above as well as current letters of recommendation, academics, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Commitment to the petroleum industry should be evident in your responses.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION WITH OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS TO:

Mike Handren – Scholarship Committee Chair – mhandren@yahoo.com
James McClard - Scholarship Committee – james.mcclard24@gmail.com
Eric Bartz – Scholarship Committee – stephen.bartz@gmail.com
David Budy – Scholarship Committee – dbudy@sentinelpeakresources.com

Or by USPS mail to: Mike Handren
12309 Ashentree Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93312

We look forward to receiving your timely application. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members via email.



Please answer the two essay questions below. Each question should be answered in a short essay of approximately 500 words.

Essay Question # 1 California Refinery Closures:

Recent news stories have indicated that some California oil refineries will be closing in 2026. Why are these refineries closing? What are the impacts to the companies that are closing the refineries? What are the impacts to the California citizens who are consumers of the refined products, in particular gasoline? Are there impacts to other states as a result of these refinery closures?

Essay Question # 2 California Gasoline Prices:

California gasoline prices are the highest in the continental United States. They are \$2.00 per gallon higher than the national average gasoline price. Why is that? What could be done by the state of California to improve on those high prices? What could be done by the California legislature or the California Air Resources Board to reduce the high cost of California gasoline?

Please answer the informational question below with a short essay of approximately 200 words.

Informal Informational Question:

Describe how your course of studies relates to the energy, oil, and gas industry and what your role will be after graduation. Explain your intended contributions to our industry.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DATA SHEET

Name _____

Telephone # and e-mail _____

Mailing Address & Zip Code _____

High school attending (if applicable) _____

College/University attending in 2026 _____

Current or Proposed College Major _____

Year in School _____ GPA: Last Term _____ Overall _____

Name of Academic Counselor _____

Academic Counselor Phone # _____

Activities: Use additional sheets if necessary. Include Educational Activities (Student Government, Clubs, Awards, Sports, etc.), Community Involvement (Volunteer Activities, Organizations, etc.), and any Petroleum/Professional Affiliations

List any special considerations which you feel are pertinent. _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, March 31, 2026