

**DIOCESE OF OAKLAND
CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION
2026 BILL FORD SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The CYO Scholarship Committee is inviting applications and will award four \$1000 scholarships in May of 2026 to four current eighth grade students who participated in CYO Sports during the 2025-2026 school year.

Applications are due to the CYO office no later than Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

The scholarships are awarded to aid the selected athletes in continuing education in high school. Both Catholic school and public-school students are encouraged to apply. At least one scholarship will be awarded to a current student in a Catholic Elementary School who will be attending a Catholic High School next fall.

An anonymous foundation funds the scholarships, to be named in honor of Bill Ford, longtime CYO director. The scholarships will be awarded based on the candidate's active participation in CYO, in understanding the importance of good sportsmanship, and by exhibiting the Gospel values that are the essence of CYO participation. Skill in sports is not considered.

Eligibility to Apply: The scholarship is open to any Oakland Diocese CYO player who played a CYO sport in the 2025–2026 school-year season as an 8th grader and who is currently enrolled in the 8th grade.

Complete the Application: The player should complete this four-page application form. The application includes an essay on the impact that the CYO program has had on the applicant, the player's history in CYO and other activities, a recommendation by a significant adult in the player's life (other than a parent), and approval to apply by the player's parents or guardians, and a parish/Catholic school representative.

Return the Completed Application: Applications must be complete and be submitted in one document. Applications may be sent by email to skullman@oakdiocese.org as **one PDF document**. (*Password protected documents will not be considered and please put 2026 Bill Ford CYO Scholarship in the header of the email.*) You can also mail the application to Sean Kullman, Oakland Diocese CYO Scholarship, 2121 Harrison Street, Suite 100, Oakland CA 94612.

Deadline to Receive Applications: The Oakland Diocese CYO Office must receive completed applications by Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Applications received after May 20, 2026, or received as an incomplete application, will not be considered. CYO will not be responsible for applications lost in the mail or email.

Selection Process: The scholarship committee will screen applications. The committee will then invite selected applicants for a brief interview, in person or via Zoom. The interviews will be conducted in one evening. The applicant must attend the assigned, scheduled interview to be considered. The scholarships will be awarded from those interviewed.

Questions? If you have any questions, contact the CYO office by email: Sean Kullman at skullman@oakdiocese.org

Flexibility: CYO and the Scholarship Committee may revise, change, or modify the above requirements, with or without notice.

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All applications must be complete, and all supporting documents must be included at the same time. Applications will not be accepted past the Wednesday May 20. 2005 deadline.

PLAYER INFORMATION:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PARISH/CITY _____ SCHOOL _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____ @ _____

PARENT/ GUARDIAN NAME (S) _____

I give my permission for my child to apply and to interview for the Bill Ford Scholarship
Signature of Parent / Guardian.

_____ Date _____

I am applying for the Bill Ford Scholarship. All the information that I have given on this application and will give in the interview is accurate.

Signature of Applicant

_____ Date _____

I attest that this applicant exhibits the high standards of CYO sportsmanship, both on and off the court, and I recommend this applicant for the scholarship. Signature of Parish Official

_____ Date _____

(CYO athletic director, principal, pastor/administrator or parish staff member)

CYO SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

List the CYO Sports and the years in which you have participated.

Describe other sports or other activities in which you participate.

CANDIDATE’S ESSAY IN A PARAGRAPH OR TWO

Catholic Youth Organization promotes Catholic values through sports, sportsmanship, and community. In a paragraph or two, please explain how your participation in CYO sports helped you build friendships, community, and live a Christ-centered life. Use your experiences on and off the playing fields and courts.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the candidate to write their essay. The box occupies most of the lower half of the page.

CANDIDATE'S REFERENCE:

Include a brief statement from an adult (other than your parent) who is familiar with your participation in CYO. It can be from your coach, teacher, principal, pastor, or any adult mentor. This person should describe your CYO participation and why she or he would recommend you for the award

SIGNATURE: RELATIONSHIP TO ATHLETE:
