

# The Barton L. Weller Scholarship

## 2025-2026

**Presented by The Weller Foundation, Incorporated**

An independent research scholarship for high school seniors excelling in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math). The Weller Foundation, Incorporated provides a \$22,000 scholarship to one student based on an innovative independent research or study project.

### Scholarship Rules

The Weller Foundation, Incorporated provides an annual scholarship in honor of Barton L. Weller who was the founder of Vitramon, Incorporated and whose generosity has made the award possible. Its purpose is to encourage academic excellence in a substantial independent project.

#### PROPOSALS:

1. The Foundation will accept proposals from seniors who are full-time students at Joel Barlow, Masuk, Newtown, Shelton and Trumbull High Schools, each outlining a project to be developed during the academic year. (See the [Scholarship Brochure](#) for important dates.)
2. The Scholarship Program will be announced simultaneously at the five area high schools on May 17th of each year to provide an equal chance for all eligible and interested students to submit a proposal.
3. The proposal formulation period runs from May 23-October 3, 2025.
4. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents. Recipients must attend a four-year undergraduate degree program in the United States.
5. Topics for projects are not limited by content or scholastic field. For example: A study of economic or political forces influencing the immediate geographic area.
  - A science or engineering project.
  - A study of the effect of environmental factors on the immediate geographic area.
  - A project in the fine arts.
  - A computer system or software project.
  - A mathematics project.

Any proposal for a project requiring basic study and originality will be considered. Proposals cannot be part of a summer job, an internship, or an affiliation with a research institution. The student must clearly demonstrate in the proposal that the project is logistically and financially feasible and describe how it is creative, original, meaningful and practical.

Proposals requiring the use of non-student owned equipment or which necessitate classroom involvement of other students or school facilities must attach written permission from an authorized official for such activities. A student may submit only one proposal. If more than one proposal is received from a student, all his/ her proposals will be disqualified.

6. If a student utilizes a mentor, mentors are required to sign off on a proposal verifying that the project is the student's own idea and own plan and AI was not utilized.
7. Proposals of no more than 2 pages (not including required attachments) must outline the student's project by including the following all sections entitled within the supplied [Project Proposal Format](#).

Up to five finalists will be selected from among the proposals. Each of the finalists will be awarded \$200 on **November 5, 2025**, at which time the finalists will officially start their projects. An alternate finalist will be notified of their selection should a finalist withdraw from the program prior to said date.

**No proposal may contain any identification of the student, town of residence or high school attended.**

A separate cover letter provided by the Foundation must be completed and attached to the proposal. Proposals,

attachments, and cover a letter should be submitted to the High School Weller Liaison.

**Questions with respect to these rules or proposal eligibility may be directed to Stephanie Baker, Foundation Administrator at 475-395-6397 or [bwellerfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bwellerfoundation@gmail.com)**

## **PROJECT:**

1. Up to five finalists become eligible to participate in the project phase, carrying out the proposal submitted.
2. The scholarship project development period will run from **October 17, 2025 to March 4, 2026** with submission and documentation of the project due to The Weller Foundation, Incorporated before 4:00 P.M. local time on or before **March 4, 2026**.
3. There is no restriction on use of project content for legitimate academic credit or other purposes. For example, a science project may also be entered in another science talent search or local science fair; a study on the area economy may be submitted by the student for credit in an economics course.
4. The completed project is expected to be creative, original, meaningful, and practical and completed with the utmost care. Each project is expected to be the student's own work without outside assistance in organizing and executing the project. Parents, faculty and other professionals may be consulted and must be acknowledged as resources for reference, but the student is entirely responsible for performing the work. The finalists will be asked to sign a statement to this effect.

A mid-project meeting will be held by the Trustees with the finalists on **January 8, 2026** to review progress and answer any procedural questions that might arise.

5. Final date for submission of the project will be **March 4, 2026**. Projects must be completed as submitted.

A total of five projects (except as deemed inappropriate by Foundation) must be submitted for judging. (Copies will be distributed to the judges; one copy to be retained by the Foundation.) They will be judged by a committee, selected from outside the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Each judge is paid an honorarium for this service.

The primary standards for judgment will be the degree to which, and the skill and care with which, the original proposal is developed into the final project. Changes in content from the original proposal may result in disqualification.

On March 18th the judges will convene to interview the participants about their project and select the \$22,000 scholarship recipient. The judges' selection of the scholarship recipient shall be final.

These interviews are not intended to supplement the completed project materials submitted on March 4th. They will provide an opportunity for the judges to authenticate the students' knowledge or the project content.

6. The scholarship recipient will be announced on **March 21, 2025**.
7. The student whose project is judged best will receive the \$22,000 scholarship, payable in increments of \$5,500 at the beginning of each of four academic years for which the student is accepted and attends a recognized college or university. Payments will be made directly to the college or university for deposit into the student's account. The scholarship recipient **must enroll** in the fall semester following the scholarship award date. Subsequent payments will be made after receipt of an official transcript verifying satisfactory completion of studies for that year and that the student remains in "good standing". A maximum of one year out of college attendance will be allowed for substantial reasons such as health or family hardship. Beyond one year, the balance of the award will be forfeited.
8. The Scholarship will be awarded without regard to the student's existing financial status.
9. It is the Foundation's intention to return all but one copy of the material submitted to the student, and will not accept responsibility for loss or damage.
10. To be eligible for the \$22,000 scholarship or runners-up award, the finalist must attend the required meetings: Mid-Project Review and the Interview Session.

Note: Relatives of Trustees of The Weller Foundation, Incorporated are not eligible to compete for the Barton L. Weller Scholarship. The Trustees reserve the right to exercise their discretion on all matters.

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