

# CVBG Tom Cersley Memorial Scholarship Guidelines

Central Virginia Blacksmith Guild (CVBG) will award the Tom Cersley Memorial scholarship of up to \$500 to a member to be used for a blacksmithing or related class, or to attend a blacksmith conference or seminar. The scholarship must be used by the end of the following calendar year from its award. The scholarship awarded in August 2026 would have to be used by the end of 2027. However, the CVBG Board may allow an extension of this deadline based upon extenuating circumstances.

The process of awarding the scholarship and the requirements that recipients must accept are as follows:

I. The Tom Cersley Memorial \$500 Scholarship will be awarded by the Board of Directors during the August 2026 CVBG Meeting .

II. To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a member in good standing and have completed at least one year (12 months) of membership with the Guild. Membership dues must be paid and current.
- The applicant must have attended a minimum of 4 Guild meetings within the previous 12 months from the application date.
- Complete a scholarship application form and submit it to the Guild no later than **July 31, 2026**.

III. The scholarship monies are to be used for the class, conference, or seminar (Class) tuition, and room & board at the facility if offered in a package. If the Class costs less than the scholarship amount, the scholarship will pay up to the cost of the Class. Once the scholarship applicant decides on a Class and date, the CVBG Board must be notified and approve the Class to be taken. Upon completion of the Scholarship Obligations (Section VII below) and receipt by the CVBG Treasurer of copies of invoices and/or receipts for expenses, reimbursement will be issued to the scholarship recipient.

IV. An applicant shall only be awarded one scholarship per year. A scholarship recipient will be ineligible to apply for a scholarship award for a period of one year following receipt of the award.

V. Scholarship forms and reminders will be published in the CVBG newsletter, and a Scholarship Application and these Guidelines will be posted on the CVBG website. CVBG Officers will be responsible for making changes to these guidelines as may be appropriate. Any changes to the guidelines shall be placed on CVBG's website and published in the newsletter.

VI. Once all applications are received, they shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors for compliance with these guidelines.

VII. Obligations of CVBG scholarship recipients:

- Money reimbursed through the Scholarship must be spent for the activity or program for which it is granted unless changes are specifically approved by the CVBG Board.
- Each Scholarship recipient will submit a written article describing a project or technique learned at the Scholarship event with notes, drawings, photos, etc. to be published in the CVBG Newsletter.
- Within one year from the date of the Class, the recipient must demonstrate the metalworking process or knowledge gained as a result of the scholarship at a CVBG meeting.
- The recipient must donate a forged piece of work (preferably incorporating something that was learned as a result of receiving the scholarship) to the CVBG Iron in the Hat at the December meeting.

