



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Astronaut Scholarship Foundation Celebrates 40 Years of Nurturing STEM Leaders with Announcement of the 2024 Astronaut Scholars

71 students from 48 colleges across the U.S. to each receive up to \$15,000 in financial support

ORLANDO – The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) today announced its 2024 class of Astronaut Scholars – exceptional undergraduate students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math. For 2024, a total of [71 undergraduate students](#) from 48 universities and colleges across the United States will each receive up to \$15,000. ASF will present this year’s Astronaut Scholars during its Innovators Symposium & Gala on Aug. 14-17, 2024, at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center in Houston, Texas.

“For 40 years, ASF has been at the forefront of nurturing the next generation of STEM leaders and fueling their passion for exploration and innovation,” said Caroline Schumacher, ASF president and CEO. “Each year, it’s thrilling to see the exceptional talent and dedication each new scholar brings to the ASF community. We welcome the 2024 class and look forward to supporting them in their quest to make their unique mark on our society.”

ASF’s [Astronaut Scholarship](#) is offered to junior and senior-year college students pursuing degrees in STEM. The process begins with nominations from professors or faculty members at an ASF-partnering university. Upon selection, each student receives a scholarship of up to \$15,000. Other benefits include: networking and mentoring opportunities with astronauts, alumni and industry leaders; participation in the [Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program](#); and a paid trip to attend ASF’s Innovators Symposium & Gala, featuring the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence. This latter event also includes a technical conference where Astronaut Scholars present their research.

ASF awarded its first seven scholarships in 1986 to honor the Mercury 7 Astronauts — Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton. The seven students received \$1,000 scholarships. To fundraise and support future scholarships, the founders - which included the six surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, Betty Grissom (Gus’s widow), William Douglas, M.D. (the Project Mercury flight surgeon) and Henri Landwirth (Orlando businessman and friend) – began donating proceeds from their speaking engagements. The incredible efforts of these legends have shaped ASF’s mission to support and reward exceptional college students pursuing degrees in STEM. Forty years later, more than \$9 million has been awarded to more than 800 college students.

About Astronaut Scholarship Foundation

The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) is an Orlando-based, 501(c)3 nonprofit commemorating the legacy of America’s pioneering astronauts. Founded by the six surviving Mercury 7 Astronauts in 1984, ASF partners with industry leaders, universities, and individual donors to achieve its mission of supporting and rewarding exceptional college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of the Treasury policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

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