

**Bob Gilbert Memorial  
Ruritan Scholarships  
Sponsored By Natural Bridge Ruritan Club**

Robert “Bob” Gilbert grew up in Natural Bridge and was a friend to many and rarely met a stranger, welcoming many families into the southern Rockbridge County region. Bob’s ability to see the needs of others, gather resources and turn ideas into blessings has raised the spirit of our community significantly over the years.

Following graduation from Natural Bridge High School and James Madison University, Bob moved to Richmond where he met his loving wife, Kathy, at Virginia Commonwealth University. When they moved back to Rockbridge County to work at Virginia Military Institute, Bob devoted much of his time giving his best efforts to his church and his community. Bob served in multiple roles at High Bridge Presbyterian Church including treasurer, member of both the Diaconate and Session, cemetery trustee, Sunday school teacher and lay pastor.

As a Rockbridge County School Board member for many years, a leader at every level in the Natural Bridge Ruritan Club, and a former president of the Friends of Natural Bridge State Park, among many other community-based organizations, Bob wanted the best for the community he so loved.

Bob’s dedication to his Lord, family, education, community and his neighbor are the foundation and focus for this offering of scholarships. His efforts within our Rockbridge community are a keen example he would wish for others to emulate and multiply within Rockbridge County; especially in the areas centered on Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Station and Glasgow. “Education,” Bob would agree, is the best first step on the path to service.

***Students from Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Station, and Glasgow areas of Rockbridge County are invited to apply for a Bob Gilbert Memorial Ruritan Scholarship. The scholarship currently has a minimum amount of \$1000. If you receive a Bob Gilbert Memorial Ruritan Scholarship, you may re-apply for and be considered for subsequent years of financial aid according to the scholarship guidelines in place at that time. We are particularly supportive of students pursuing vocational and technical training, however, students pursuing a four-year college degree will also be considered.***

**Application is due to Ms. van Ravenswaay by April 15, 2026.**

Bob Gilbert Memorial  
Natural Bridge Ruritan Scholarships

Section I.

1. Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle
2. Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip
3. Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Section II.

1. Name and Address (if different) of Mother/Guardian:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Street City State Zip
2. Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. Employer \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mother/Guardian's Approximate Annual Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Section III.

1. Name and Address (if different) of Father/Guardian:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- Street City State Zip
2. Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_
4. Employer \_\_\_\_\_
5. Father's/Guardian's Approximate Annual Income: \_\_\_\_\_

Section IV.

1. List all post-high school educational or training programs you have applied to fulfill your career goal.

Have you been accepted to any educational or training programs? If so, please list.

Do you plan to attend a Virginia Community College Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you plan to attend a private training program Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you plan to attend a four-year college? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please list school and program you plan to attend.

How many years do you anticipate your training/education to take?

1 \_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_

Are your parent(s)/guardian(s) helping to financially support your tuition?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Have you received other scholarships/grants for the coming school year?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, will the scholarship/grant cover all tuition for the coming year?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

2. What are your career plans and hopes? How could a scholarship from the Natural Bridge Ruritan Club help you achieve your goals? (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

3. List all high school programs, clubs and sports activities in which you participated. List any offices held. (Attach a resume if necessary)

4. List all extracurricular activities and/or employment opportunities you have or are involved in during your high school experience.

5. Please tell us about any special circumstances or reasons which make you a particularly worthy candidate for a Bob Gilbert Memorial Ruritan Scholarship.

Section V.

I understand and agree to the terms of this scholarship program as stated in this application: I certify that I am a resident of Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge Station, or Glasgow areas of Rockbridge County. I certify that the information I have provided is true and correct.

I understand if I receive a Bob Gilbert Memorial Ruritan Scholarship, I may re-apply for and be considered for subsequent years of financial aid according to the scholarship guidelines in place at that time.

I further agree that if I receive a scholarship and later receive a full financial aid package for my educational institution of choice, I will return my scholarship award to the Natural Bridge Ruritan Club for use in support of another deserving applicant.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your application to Ms. Lisa Van Ravenswaay