



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Astronaut Scholarship Foundation adds seven Astronaut Scholarships for the next seven years** *Grant from Club for the Future establishes ASF's new Founders for the Future program*

ORLANDO, Fla. — The [Astronaut Scholarship Foundation](#) (ASF) proudly announces its new Founders for the Future program. A \$1 million grant from Blue Origin's nonprofit [Club for the Future](#) will provide seven additional [Astronaut Scholarships](#) each year now through 2029. An additional student will be selected from each of the following prestigious university partners as part of this program: Mississippi State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Harvey Mudd College, Miami University, University of Illinois, University of Oklahoma, and University of Colorado Boulder. In all, the grant will help fund the dreams of 49 students as they pursue their education.

"Thanks to the generous grant from Club for the Future we have established the Founders for the Future program, enabling us to expand our reach and deepen our commitment to fueling the newest generation of scientific and technological game changers," said Caroline Schumacher, president and CEO of ASF. "Our hope is this program will inspire more students to realize their dreams of innovation and space exploration, while continuing the legacy of our founders."

The [Astronaut Scholarship](#) is offered to junior- or senior-year college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). After a nomination and selection process by their university, the chosen student receives a scholarship of up to \$15,000 and is officially named an Astronaut Scholar. ASF awarded its first seven scholarships in 1986 in honor of all seven Mercury astronauts — Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Walter Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Deke Slayton. During the past 36 years, more than \$7 million has been awarded to more than 600 college students pursuing degrees in STEM fields.

In June 2021, ASF was among 19 space-based charities awarded a \$1 million grant by Club for the Future to inspire future generations to pursue careers in STEM and help invent the future of life in space.

"Club for the Future is proud to support the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation," said Michael Edmonds, president of Club for the Future. "The additional scholarships will aid tomorrow's leaders as they shape the future of space exploration for the benefit of Earth. We look forward to seeing what these scholars will accomplish during their careers."

Beyond the financial reward, Astronaut Scholars receive opportunities to network with astronauts, alumni, and industry leaders; participate in the [Michael Collins Family Professional Development Program](#); and attend ASF's Innovators Week & Gala, featuring the Neil Armstrong™ Award of Excellence.

To learn more about the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Astronaut Scholarship, click [here](#).



### **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 the best and brightest college students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Griffin Communications Group  
(310) 775-0625; [stephanie@griffincg.com](mailto:stephanie@griffincg.com)