



SCHOLARSHIP INTRODUCTION

Thank you for applying for the annual Dakota West Credit Union Scholarship. Please take time to read through the Scholarship Guidelines. Choose one of the Essay Topics and complete the Application Information and Release of Information on the following pages.

Dakota West Credit Union will be awarding three scholarships in 2025 to graduating high school seniors and students who are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institute or trade school.

1st Place: \$2000

2nd Place: \$1500

3rd Place: \$1000

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

- This scholarship opportunity is open to any high school senior, or post-secondary student who is a member of Dakota West Credit Union and who will be pursuing his or her education during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Only one entry per student will be allowed.
- Essays will be judged based on originality, meaningful content, academic professionalism, and accuracy of facts used persuasively. Essays should follow the 5-paragraph format and be at a minimum of 250 words.
- Entries may be released to the local media, the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas, and Dakota West Credit Union members.
- Essays should be prepared digitally but may be submitted in hard copy format.
- Please omit the name on the essay. If submitting in hard format, attach the essay to the application as a cover page.
- Send entries electronically to marketing@dakotawestcu.org, or by mail to: Dakota West Credit Union, P.O. Box 1496, Watford City, ND 58854 ATTN: Marketing. **Entries must be postmarked no later than January 12th, 2026.**
- Scholarship recipients will be announced on Friday, January 23rd, 2026.
- Scholarships will be paid jointly to the individual and the school the student will be attending.

ESSAY TOPIC:

Tell us about an event that has had a profound impact on your life.



RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Please submit this page with your essay.

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, _____, hereby authorize Dakota West Credit Union permission to use my likeness in a photograph in all its publications and website, including but not limited to all Dakota West Credit Union's printed and digital publications. I understand and agree that any photograph using my likeness will become property of Dakota West Credit Union and will not be returned.

I acknowledge that since my participation with Dakota West Credit Union is voluntary, I will receive no financial compensation beyond the receipt of the scholarship for which I am applying, if I am selected as its recipient. I hereby authorize Dakota West Credit Union permission to use the text of my attached essay in announcing my acceptance of this scholarship, if offered and accepted, in all its publications and website, including but not limited to all Dakota West Credit Union's printed and digital publications.

I hereby irrevocably authorize Dakota West Credit Union to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing Dakota West Credit Union's programs or for any other related, lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge Dakota West Credit Union from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Signature of guardian if under 18 years of age:

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Please submit this page with your essay.

Name _____ Member # _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

High School or Post-Secondary School _____ Graduation Date _____

School Planning to Attend _____

Intended Major or Field of Study _____

High School and/or Post-Secondary School Activities, Honors, and Awards _____

Community, Work, or Volunteer Involvement _____
