2026 Scholarship Application

The Award
A $5,000 scholarship to be awarded by Arkansas Federal Foundation.

Eligibility
The applicant must be a member or child of a member with Arkansas Federal Credit Union in good standing who meets all the following criteria:

- The applicant is a college-bound high school senior at the time of application.
- The applicant is attending college for the first time in the fall of 2026.
- The applicant will be enrolled in either a two- or four-year accredited institution or trade school recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education. This information can be found at **ope.ed.gov/accreditation.**
- The applicant agrees to use any scholarship funds awarded by August 31, 2026, at an accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education.
- Employees and Arkansas Federal volunteers and children of employees or Arkansas Federal volunteers are not eligible.

Application Instructions
- Complete the Arkansas Federal 2026 scholarship application (rev. 12/25) found on the following pages. Provide complete information for all items requested.
- Applicants should type or print clearly and use only the space provided on the form to answer the questions. Other than specified below, no attachments, resumes, pictures, or other material of any kind should be submitted. The applicant and his/her parent or guardian must sign the Certification of Release Authorization on the last page of the application form. Provide electronic signatures if possible, otherwise print the completed form and sign and scan it into a PDF document for submission.
- The application, transcripts, and letters of recommendation must be received by scholarship@afcu.org no later than 11:59 pm CST Friday, March 13, 2026. **All portions must be submitted together.** If any portion is incomplete or missing, the application will not be considered. The application and all attachments should be combined and provided in **one** electronic document in PDF format. Applications submitted in multiple files **will not** be considered. The application document should be named with the following convention, using the applicant's first and last name:

  FirstName_LastName_Scholarship_Application

- Please utilize the above naming convention in the subject line of your application submission.

Required Documents
1. A high school transcript documenting student's GPA for grades 9-12
2. SAT/ACT transcript (obtained through the high school guidance office)
3. Two (2) non-family member letters of recommendation

Award Notification
The scholarship recipient will be notified by **May 29, 2026.** The scholarship will be made payable to the institution of learning and will be either mailed to or picked up by the award recipient. A check presentation will be scheduled with the scholarship recipient and scheduled for an agreed upon future date.

Selection Process
Judging will be based on both subjective and objective criteria. These include academic achievements, extracurricular and community activities, essay, etc.

Application Deadline
Applications must be received by scholarship@afcu.org no later than 11:59 pm CST, **Friday, March 13, 2026.**

Personal Information

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

High School Currently Attending: _____

GPA: _____

2-or 4-year college, university or trade school planning to attend:

_____

Area of Study: _____

High School Honors and Awards

Please list honors and awards and year(s) of participation. Use this space only.

Examples: honor roll, National Honor Society, Who's Who, principal's awards, science fair awards, college book awards, student/athlete awards, etc.

1: _____ 6: _____

2: _____ 7: _____

3: _____ 8: _____

4: _____ 9: _____

5: _____ 10: _____

High School Activities

Please list high school activities and year(s) of participation. Use this space only.

Examples: sports teams, clubs, band, drama, choral, orchestra, yearbook, school newspaper, etc.

1: _____ 6: _____

2: _____ 7: _____

3: _____ 8: _____

4: _____ 9: _____

5: _____ 10: _____

Community Activities and Volunteer Work

Please list community activities and volunteer work and year(s) of participation. Do not list one-time activities or events. Use this space only.

Examples: scouting, community service projects, community volunteerism, religious youth groups, youth counseling, etc.

1: _____ 6: _____

2: _____ 7: _____

3: _____ 8: _____

4: _____ 9: _____

5: _____ 10: _____

Paid Employment

Please list each job separately and indicate the year(s) employed. Only jobs requiring more than 10 hours per week should be listed. Use this space only.

Examples: part-time jobs, babysitting, etc.

1: _____ 4: _____

2: _____ 5: _____

3: _____ 6: _____

Leadership Positions Held (elected or appointed)

Please list leadership positions held and the year(s) of participation. Use this space only.

Examples: class officer, club officer, sports team leader, scouting leader, student government officer, band/orchestra 1st chair, etc.

1: _____ 6: _____

2: _____ 7: _____

3: _____ 8: _____

4: _____ 9: _____

5: _____ 10: _____

Family Information

Name of parent or guardian(s)

_____ _____

First and Last Name First and Last Name

Are there any unusual circumstances or need for financial aid? If so, please briefly explain below.

Essay

Answer the following questions. Your response should be typed in this space below and between 300-500 words.

Questions:

- How are you currently financially preparing for college, and how do you plan to manage your college debt post-graduation?
- How have you made a difference in your community, or in the life of someone? And, how will you continue this in the future?

Certification and Release Authorization

The following information must be completed for the applicant to be considered for the scholarship award.

I certify this information is true, complete and accurate. I also authorize the release of this information to confirm and/or verify this application. I authorize Arkansas Federal Credit Union to use my name and photograph of me in either print or on the Internet. I agree to use any scholarship funds awarded at an U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education recognized accredited educational institution by August 31, 2026.

Member Number: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Application Verification

For Credit Union Use Only.

The following information must be completed in full by credit union management for the application to be considered.

I hereby certify that the following applicant is an Arkansas Federal Credit Union member in good standing.

Employee Name: _____

Employee Signature: _____ **Date:** _____