



2026 SCHOLARSHIP Rules and Guidelines

Each year the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative awards merit-based scholarships of \$1,000 each to about 45 graduating high school seniors. Here is more information about these college scholarships.

Who is eligible?

1. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must reside within one of the Golden West telephone service areas (see list on page 2) and subscribe to Golden West phone or internet service.
2. The applicant must be a high school senior.
3. Applicants must take the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) at an examination center of their choice and receive a score prior to applying.
4. Scholarship awards may be only applied to postsecondary institutions.
5. The recipient of the award must begin attending a postsecondary institution and taking 12 or more classroom credits the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school and enroll in the spring semester to be eligible for the scholarship.

How many scholarships will you award?

Scholarship awards will be one-time, \$1,000 scholarships. Golden West will offer 40-plus awards, including one at-large scholarship for a student attending a school not listed or home schooled, whose parent or guardian is a Golden West customer. Each high school will be eligible to receive one award. Applicants will compete against other applicants from their high school. At-large applicants will compete against other at-large applicants.

Who will select the scholarship winners?

The Selection Committee shall consist of the high school's principal and/or superintendent, who are not connected with the Golden West Scholarship Program. The Selection Committee will be responsible for the confidential review of each applicant's file. They alone will determine the scholarship award winners. At-large winners will be selected by a committee of Golden West employees not affiliated with the applicants.

How will applications be judged?

The Selection Committee will judge applicants' scholarship and leadership abilities based on the following information:

1. ACT or SAT scores
2. Transcript of high school credits
3. Scholarship application

This is a merit-based scholarship program. Merit includes leadership in school, civic and other extracurricular activities; academic achievement; and the motivation to serve and succeed. Personal character is also very important. If two or more applications are extremely close in qualifications, the selection panel will use financial need as the tiebreaker.

How do I apply and what are the deadlines?

Students may apply for a scholarship in the following manner:

- Students who attend a school listed on page 2 must obtain a High School Scholarship Application from their local high school guidance counselor or at goldenwest.com/scholarships.
- Students who do NOT attend a school listed on page 2 but whose parents receive Golden West internet or phone service must obtain an At-Large Scholarship Application at goldenwest.com/scholarships.
- Student completes the scholarship application and submits it along with an up-to-date transcript of grades and ACT or SAT score results to the appropriate high school official by March 16, 2026.
At-large applicants ONLY must mail applications to Golden West or email them to scholarships@goldenwest.com.

How will the awards and payments be administered?

Award winners may be announced at the student's school recognition or graduation exercises. Recipients will also be published on Golden West's website, social media platforms, newsletter, and sent to local newspapers.

The award becomes final and funds will be sent after the student verifies:

- They completed 12 credits in the first semester of their freshmen year in a postsecondary institution.
- They are enrolled full time in their second semester.

Verification may be provided to Golden West in one of three ways:

- The student can send an unofficial transcript.
- The student can send screenshots from their school's registration portal.
- The postsecondary institution can submit a completed Verification of Enrollment form.

Send these items to Golden West by mail or email at the contact information below. Golden West also needs the mailing address for the school's financial aid office and the student's ID number.

Once received and verified, Golden West will issue and mail a check payable to the school to be credited to the student's account. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and school-related supplies. If a student withdraws for any reason, any unused scholarship balance MUST be returned to Golden West. It may NOT be transferred to another school nor be paid to the student personally under any circumstance.

Each student recipient is responsible for following up on all matters regarding their scholarship. All correspondence must include the student's full name, email address, and student ID number.

Where can I get more information?

For questions or clarifications, please call us at **1-855-888-7777, option 3**, or email scholarships@goldenwest.com.

GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

415 Crown Street, PO Box 411 • Wall, SD 57790-0411 • goldenwest.com/scholarships

Golden West awards a \$1,000 scholarship to each of the following:

ARMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

AVON HIGH SCHOOL

BENNETT CO. HIGH SCHOOL

BON HOMME HIGH SCHOOL

BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL

BURKE HIGH SCHOOL

CANISTOTA HIGH SCHOOL

COLOME HIGH SCHOOL

CORSICA HIGH SCHOOL

CRAZY HORSE HIGH SCHOOL

CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL

DELL RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

EDGEMONT HIGH SCHOOL

FAITH HIGH SCHOOL

FREEMAN ACADEMY

FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL

GREGORY HIGH SCHOOL

HOT SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

JONES CO. HIGH SCHOOL

KADOKA HIGH SCHOOL

LAKOTA TECH HIGH SCHOOL

LITTLE WOUND HIGH SCHOOL

LOWER BRULE HIGH SCHOOL

LYMAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

MARION HIGH SCHOOL

MENNO HIGH SCHOOL

MONTROSE HIGH SCHOOL

NEW UNDERWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

OELRICH'S HIGH SCHOOL

OLCSD VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

PHILIP HIGH SCHOOL

PINE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

PLANKINTON HIGH SCHOOL

RED CLOUD HIGH SCHOOL

SCOTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

ST FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

STANLEY CO. HIGH SCHOOL

STURGIS BROWN HIGH SCHOOL

TODD CO. HIGH SCHOOL

TRI-VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

WALL HIGH SCHOOL

WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

WHITE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

WINNER HIGH SCHOOL

AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP

Students who attend any of these schools listed must apply directly through the school.

Students who attend another school must use the at-large application.

The applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s) must reside in one of the following telephone service areas.

Ardmore, SD	(605) 459	Hot Springs, SD	(605) 745	Plankinton, SD	(605) 942
Armour, SD	(605) 724	Humboldt, SD	(605) 363	Quinn, SD	(605) 386
Avon, SD	(605) 286	Interior, SD	(605) 433	Reliance, SD	(605) 473
Belvidere, SD	(605) 344	Kadoka, SD	(605) 837	Rosebud, SD	(605) 747
Bonesteel, SD	(605) 654	Kyle, SD	(605) 455	Scotland, SD	(605) 583
Bridgewater, SD	(605) 729	Lesterville, SD	(605) 364	So. Ardmore, NE	(308) 453
Buffalo Gap, SD	(605) 833	Long Valley, SD	(605) 462	So. Bonesteel, NE	(402) 653
Burke, SD	(605) 775	Marion, SD	(605) 648	So. Burke, NE	(402) 774
Canistota, SD	(605) 296	Martin, SD	(605) 685	So. Gregory, NE	(402) 974
Clearfield, SD	(605) 557	Maurine, SD	(605) 748	So. Oelrichs, NE	(308) 525
Colton, SD	(605) 446	Menno, SD	(605) 387	Springfield, SD	(605) 369
Corsica, SD	(605) 946	Midland, SD	(605) 843	Vivian, SD	(605) 683
Creighton, SD	(605) 457	Milesville, SD	(605) 544	Wall, SD	(605) 279
Custer, SD	(605) 673	Mission, SD	(605) 856	Wasta, SD	(605) 993
Dell Rapids, SD	(605) 428	Montrose, SD	(605) 363	West Edgemont, WY	(307) 663
Edgemont, SD	(605) 662	Murdo, SD	(605) 669	White Clay, NE	(308) 862
Enning, SD	(605) 985	New Underwood, SD	(605) 754	White River, SD	(605) 259
Faith, SD (Rural)	(605) 739	Oelrichs, SD	(605) 535	Wicksville, SD	(605) 798
Freeman, SD	(605) 925	Oral, SD	(605) 424	Winner, SD	(605) 842
Gregory, SD	(605) 835	Philip, SD	(605) 859	Witten, SD	(605) 879
Hartford, SD	(605) 528 & 526	Pine Ridge, SD	(605) 867	Wood, SD	(605) 452
Hayes, SD	(605) 567				