



Women's Scholarships

Application Deadline
May 1st 2011

The Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund, a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, is pleased to offer scholarships to women from the 12 counties in the Women's Fund service area who are pursuing post-secondary education at a public higher education institution in the area (Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, Northland Community and Technical College at Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks, the University of Minnesota Crookston, and the White Earth Tribal College). Preference will be given to women who intend to remain in the region upon graduation. Scholarship funds are to be used for tuition and books or direct educational material expenses.

A minimum of three scholarships will be awarded for up to \$500.

As advised by a donor, one scholarship is designated for a woman attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston, with preference given to an older than average woman student.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student must reside in the 12 county service region of the Women's Fund.
- The student must intend to pursue post secondary education at a public higher education institution in the region (Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, Northland Community and Technical College at Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks, the University of Minnesota Crookston, and the White Earth Tribal College) within six months of the award. One scholarship is designated to a woman attending the U of M Crookston.
- Financial need may be considered in awarding the scholarship, but is not an eligibility requirement.
- The student will have a minimum "C", or its equivalent, high school grade point average, and demonstrate a willingness to advance in education.
- Successful candidates will have some participation, involvement, or demonstrated positive leadership qualities in the following types of activities:
 - Community service
 - School organized extra-curricular or volunteer activities
 - Non-school work positions
- Previous recipients may reapply for a second year scholarship. Scholarship renewals are not guaranteed.

Application Process

The student applicant will provide the selection committee with the following information:

- A completed application form available from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.
- A record of grades and attendance for grades 9-12. Student transcript from school of graduation is acceptable. In the case of a current or returning college student, a transcript from the schools attended is also acceptable. A high grade point average is not critical for applying for this scholarship. Grade point may be considered in the selection process, but WILL NOT be considered at the application stage.
- A copy of the letter of acceptance from the higher education institution in the region that the applicant will attend.
- A statement **describing service and aspiration for future service in the region, consistent with the mission and vision of the Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund.**
- Women applying for a second year scholarship must provide evidence of successful completion of the first year and enrollment for the second year at the higher education institution.
- A letter of recommendation from a person other than a family member.

Review Criteria

1. A record of service and an aspiration of service that aligns with the mission and vision of the Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund.
2. Demonstration of fitness and readiness for college and a strong desire or likelihood of succeeding.
3. Student's education/community involvement/work experiences as they relate to preparation for post secondary education.
4. For previous recipients, evidence of successful completion of the first year and enrollment for the second year.
5. Financial need may be considered in awarding this scholarship.

Selection and Award Protocol

1. The scholarship selection will be made in accord with the terms of this scholarship and the general selection policies, procedures, and guidelines established by the Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund Advisory Committee.
2. Announcement of the scholarship selection shall be made in a letter from the selection committee to the successful applicant. This announcement shall also be made at an award event.
3. The recipient must give written permission to publicize the award in the local media.
4. The recipient must send a written acknowledgement to the Women's Fund Advisory Committee within 30 days of the award of the scholarship.
5. The award check will be issued to the educational institution for the student.
6. The award must be used in the year it is presented and may not be carried over to a following year. It is forfeited if not used when stipulated.
7. If a scholarship recipient withdraws from school or transfers to another educational institution, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation must be immediately notified.
8. If the first choice of the selection committee fails to attend college as scheduled, the award may be transferred to a second candidate.

Questions regarding the scholarship or the application should first be directed to:

Peggy Crandall, Grant Services Associate, Northwest Minnesota Foundation
4225 Technology Drive NW, Bemidji, MN 56601, phone 800-659-7859

If you wish to support this scholarship program with a donation please contact:

Lisa Peterson, Women's Fund Coordinator, Northwest Minnesota Foundation
4225 Technology Drive, Bemidji, MN 56601, phone 218-759-2057 or in MN 800-659-7859
e-mail lisap@nwmf.org

**Northwest Minnesota Women's Fund
Scholarship Application**

Applicant: _____

Address: _____

School you will attend: _____
(Attach a copy of letter of acceptance.)

Recommended by: 1) _____
Relationship to student: _____

(Please enclose letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope.)

Please attach a statement (not more than 500 words) describing your service and aspirations to service in the region.

After reading the stipulations below, please initial each statement, sign and date this form.

I agree to have my transcript, GPA, etc. examined by the committee. _____
I have provided copies of my high school and/or college transcripts. _____
I give permission to have the award publicized if I am selected. _____
I have enclosed a sealed letters of recommendation. _____

Letter of recommendation will include the writer's name, address, and telephone number.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

