



Annual Scholarship Program

2024

I. Summary and Background

Park Side Credit Union has developed an annual scholarship program that awards local high school students who show excellence as unique individuals. The purpose is to recognize innovation and a creative passion for accomplishment, and this scholarship specifically identifies those students who are extraordinary and enthusiastic.

II. Entry Guidelines

A formal application should be submitted by the student and must contain a professional resume, essay component, additional documentation, and the completed entry form (see below – page 4). Please email completed entry packet to marketing@parksidfcu.com or mail a hard copy to the given address by 5pm on Friday, March 8th, 2024.

III. Eligibility

The scholarship program requires that the applicant is a graduating senior at a local high school within Park Side's field of membership that includes eleven counties in western Montana (Flathead, Missoula, Liberty, Toole, Glacier, Lincoln, Lake, Sanders, Mineral, Ravalli, and Beaverhead).

IV. Accomplishments, Community Involvement, & Financial Need

Please include a list of any notable accomplishments, academic honors, and achievement awards as well as a summary of past and current community service or volunteer activities. In addition, please describe in a short paragraph your circumstances regarding financial need and the impact that the scholarship would have upon your situation, and how you plan to invest the money in your future, if awarded.

V. Essay

Please submit an essay answering one of the following questions in 250 words or less:

- *How have you proven to be better today than yesterday?*
- *How do you elevate the atmosphere around you?*
- *What are some ways in which you take pleasure in creativity?*
- *How would you make banking fun?*

VI. Scholarship Details

Park Side Credit Union will award students with a \$1,000 scholarship to be used in pursuing their passion in college/university, trade school, or some form of entrepreneurship. Evaluation will take place immediately following the entry deadline and conclude by March 31st, 2024 – during this time, a committee of Park Side Credit Union employees will review the applications and select the winners. All decisions are final. The scholarship dollars will be awarded by April 26th, 2024.

VII. Selection Criteria

Student applications must contain all the requested information and will be judged on completeness, accuracy, professionalism, creativity, and vision. Park Side Credit Union reserves the right to select the winners independently without influence.

Important Points to Remember

The student is expected to submit the following to the Park Side Credit Union selection committee:

- Completed application form with signed publicity release
- Professional resume
- Accomplishments, community involvement, and financial need
- Written essay addressing one of the questions above
- Letter of reference (1)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I have to use the money for college?

No, the scholarship can be used for any purpose once it is awarded.

Where do I get a reference letter?

Ask a teacher, employer, coach, or mentor for a letter of reference. No letters from family members will be accepted.

What if I am not a member of the credit union?

All local students are eligible for the scholarship. We encourage applicants and winners to join Park Side and open an account, but it is not required for consideration.

There isn't a Park Side branch where I live – can I still apply?

If you are already a member, you are automatically eligible. If you currently live in one of the 11 western Montana counties that we serve, you qualify to become a member and can apply for the scholarship.

How do I know that my application was received?

You should receive an email from Park Side Credit Union within a few days of delivery. Emailing your application is the quickest method.

How will my application be judged?

Every application will be reviewed by the Park Side employee committee and judged on the level of professionalism and creativity. The grading is subjective and is completely up to the selection group.

Why do I have to sign the publicity release?

Park Side Credit Union focuses on community involvement and is active on social media. We would like the ability to use any success stories in our marketing outreach and public relations campaigns.

marketing@parksidefcu.com

Park Side Credit Union

1300 Baker Ave

Whitefish, MT 59937

406-862-2652



Park Side Credit Union

2024 Scholarship Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Parent/Guardian (if under 18) _____

High School Attended _____

College/University (if applicable) _____

Credit Union Member Number (optional) _____

All information contained within this application is true and verifiable, and any written portions are my own original work. I grant Park Side Credit Union permission to use the content of this submission for any reasonable publicity purposes, including posting to social media sites. I understand that being a member of Park Side Credit Union is not a requirement of accepting the award.

Signed _____ Date _____