

Sunrise Family Credit Union

2026 Bright Future Scholarship Program

At Sunrise Family Credit Union, we believe education has the power to change lives—and strengthen communities. When we invest in students, we invest in the future of the families and neighborhoods we serve. Education is the foundation for progress, opportunity, and growth, and we are proud to support students as they take the next step in their academic journey.

The Sunrise Family Credit Union Bright Future Scholarship was created to recognize students who demonstrate academic achievement, community involvement, and a commitment to lifelong learning. This program honors individuals who reflect our Credit Union values and who strive to make a positive impact in the communities around them.

We understand that pursuing higher education comes with financial challenges. To help ease that burden, Sunrise Family Credit Union awards **four scholarships of \$1,000 each**. Scholarship funds are distributed at the beginning of the recipient's first semester of post-secondary education and may be applied toward tuition, fees, or other qualifying educational expenses. Our goal is to help students focus on their education and reach their full potential.

Eligibility Requirements & Selection Process

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- **Graduating Senior Status**
Must be a current graduating senior from a high school or homeschool program.
- **Sunrise Family Credit Union Membership**
Applicant must be a member of Sunrise Family Credit Union with an account in good standing.
- **Proof of Acceptance**
Must provide proof of acceptance to an accredited college, university, or trade school.
- **Academic Achievement & Community Involvement**
Must demonstrate strong academic performance and active involvement in the community.

Selection Process

Scholarship applications are reviewed by a selection committee made up of Sunrise Family Credit Union employees and volunteers. Each application is evaluated carefully and holistically.

Applications are reviewed based on:

- Community involvement
- Quality of the essay response
- Cumulative GPA

The committee considers each applicant's achievements, leadership, service, and academic potential. Scholarship recipients will be selected based on overall merit.

Recipients will be notified by mail and announced publicly in celebration of their accomplishments. We thank our committee members for their time and dedication in supporting the next generation of leaders.

Application Information

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Date of Birth:

Social Security Number:

Sunrise Family CU Member Number:

Name of High School:

Current Grade:

Graduation Date:

Cumulative GPA:

College/University/Trade School:

Documentation of Community Involvement & Achievements

Applicants must submit a **separate document** detailing community involvement, volunteer service, work history, and any relevant skills, honors, achievements, or awards. This information helps the scholarship committee gain a full understanding of each applicant's character and contributions.

For each activity or achievement, please include:

- **Name of Organization, Company, or Individuals Served**
Clearly identify where or with whom the activity took place.
- **Grade Level During Participation**
Indicate the grade level when the activity or achievement occurred.
- **Honor, Achievement, or Award**
Describe any recognition received.
- **Position(s) Held & Description**
Include your role, responsibilities, leadership experience, and impact.

Please ensure all information is accurate, organized, and clearly presented. Incomplete or missing documentation may impact application review.

Essay Guidelines

Theme: *People Helping People*

Applicants must submit a **typed essay of 300–400 words** addressing the following prompt:

“What does the Credit Union philosophy of ‘People Helping People’ mean to you?”

Essay Evaluation Criteria

Your essay should demonstrate:

- **Understanding of the Philosophy**
Explain what “People Helping People” means to you and why it matters.
- **Personal Connection**
Share personal experiences that reflect helping others or serving your community.
- **Vision for the Future**
Describe how you plan to carry this philosophy forward in your education, career, or community involvement.

- **Passion for Learning**

Explain how education empowers individuals to make a positive difference.

Be authentic, thoughtful, and creative. This essay is an important part of your application and provides insight into your values, goals, and character.

Application Checklist

Before submitting, please ensure the following items are complete:

- ☐ Completed application form
 - ☐ Typed 300–400 word essay
 - ☐ Proof of acceptance to an accredited college, university, or trade school
 - ☐ Most recent report card or transcript showing cumulative GPA
 - ☐ Documentation of community involvement and achievements
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Submission Options

Applications may be submitted by **mail or email**:

Mail

Postmarked by **April 1, 2026**

Sunrise Family Credit Union


Attn: Jodi

404 S. Euclid Ave.

Bay City, MI 48706

Email

Send by **April 1, 2026** to:

 jwolff@sunrisefamilycu.org

Deadline

All application materials must be **received no later than April 6, 2026**.

Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Please review your materials carefully before submitting. For questions or assistance, contact Jodi at jwolff@sunrisefamilycu.org.

Certification

I certify that I have read and understand the requirements of the Sunrise Family Credit Union Bright Future Scholarship program. I acknowledge that selection is based on the criteria outlined in this packet.

If selected, I authorize Sunrise Family Credit Union to use my essay, community service information, and images/photos for promotional and marketing purposes.

I understand that scholarship recipients must notify Sunrise Family Credit Union of any changes in address or school enrollment.

I confirm that all information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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

(Required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

Non-Discrimination Statement

Sunrise Family Credit Union does not discriminate on the basis of age, marital status, gender, race, color, height, weight, religion, national origin, veteran status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability.