



CORNERSTONE
CREDIT UNION

FOUNDERS' SCHOLARSHIP 2026 APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for applying for a Cornerstone Credit Union Founders Scholarship. Since its inception in 1998, Cornerstone Credit Union has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to area youth. Education is a key element of the credit union mission and is vital to our community's and economy's success. **For 2026, four (4) recipients will each be awarded a one-time scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 from Cornerstone Credit Union.**

ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must be a Member of Cornerstone Credit Union as of April 1, 2026. Applicants are not eligible if the parent is a Member and the student/applicant is not a Member. Applicant must currently be a high school senior who plans to enroll as a full-time student at a university, junior college or trade school in the fall of 2026.

Applicants must submit a **completed Cornerstone Credit Union Founders' Scholarship Application form** which includes the following information:

- **A 1,000 word or less answer to the Essay question provided in application form**
- **An academic letter of recommendation from your school principal, counselor or advisor (*cannot be a family member*)**
- **A personal letter of recommendation from an adult in your community who knows you well and can attest to your personal qualities and abilities. It should not be written by a family member or casual acquaintance.**
- **School transcript showing cumulative grade point average for current year.**
- **A list of your volunteer activities, part-time jobs, clubs, academic awards and/or any other community involvement over the last four years (high school).**
- **Your parent/guardian's signature**

AWARD CRITERIA

Awards will be based on academic achievement, writing assessments, recommendations, and transcripts, as well as the student's potential based on character and involvement. On a 4.0 scale, a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher is recommended. Applications will be judged by the Cornerstone Credit Union Founders' Scholarship Committee.

DEADLINE

The completed application must be submitted by or postmarked on or before **April 1, 2026.**

SUBMIT BY EMAIL and attaching required documents to email: Founders.Scholarship@cornerstonecu.org,

or print and mail completed form and required documents to:

Cornerstone Credit Union
ATTN: Founders' Scholarship Committee
550 W. Meadows Dr.
Freeport, IL 61032

NOTIFICATION

Only scholarship recipients will be notified in writing of the decision of the Scholarship Committee, and they will be notified by **April 17, 2026.** The Scholarship Committee's decisions are final. No student will be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of scholarship on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, gender, marital status or physical disability.

ESSAY 1

Please explain in your own words **why being awarded a Founders' Scholarship from Cornerstone Credit Union is important to you and how the scholarship will benefit you?** Please include some reference to what your career and personal goals are after graduation.

ESSAY 2

How has Cornerstone Credit Union been able to serve you and your family.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please scan and attach (if submitting electronically) or include with completed form by mail. Must be 300 words or less.

- An **ACADEMIC LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** from your school principal, counselor or advisor (cannot be a family member) that would describe your character, capabilities, and performance as they relate to your future success.
- A **PERSONAL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** from an adult in your community who knows you well and can attest to your personal qualities, activities and abilities. It should not be written by a family member or casual acquaintance.

CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

Please make sure to submit your completed application form with two (2) letters of recommendation, your school transcript, your list of activities and awards, and your essay (if not included in application form). If you do not submit these items, you will not be eligible to receive a scholarship. **Application form must be signed by applicant and his/her parent or guardian (below).**

I hereby certify that the information in this application is complete and is correct to the best of my knowledge. By submitting this form, I authorize Cornerstone Credit Union to release the scholarship application information provided to the Founders' Scholarship Committee for the purpose of determining my eligibility as a scholarship recipient. I also understand that furnishing false information may result in revocation of my Founders' Scholarship. Further, I agree that if I am selected as a Founders' Scholarship recipient, my name, photograph, and/or writing assignments may be used for publicity purposes with no additional compensation from Cornerstone Credit Union.

Applicant Signature*

Date*

Parent or Guardian Printed Name*

Parent or Guardian Signature*