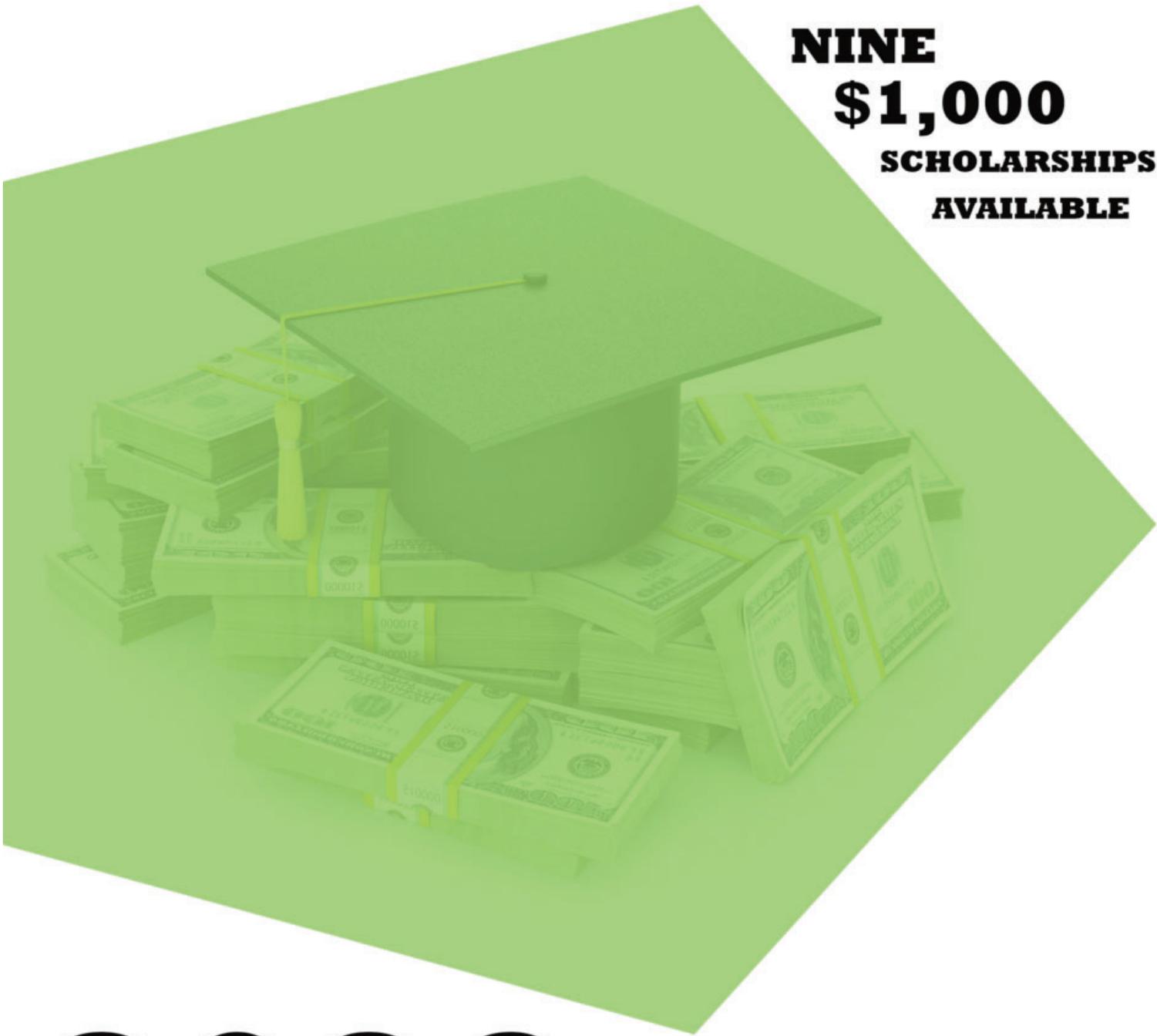


**NINE**  
**\$1,000**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AVAILABLE**



# 2026

## College Scholarship Application



The Home Team Advantage.



# 2026 College Scholarship Application

## About This Scholarship

The Valley Scholarship Program was established in the year 2000 as a way for The Cooperative to assist its members and families with furthering the education of our area students and future community leaders. To date, nearly \$120,000 in Scholarship Awards have been presented to our area students.

## Eligibility

- Applicant is currently a high school senior graduating in 2026.
  - Applicant must enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study no later than the fall term of the 2026-2027 school year at an accredited two or four year college, university, or vocational-technical school within the United States.
  - Applicant must reside with a Parent/Legal Guardian within the Valley Telecommunications Service Area. Valley serves the following communities: Hosmer, SD; Eureka, SD; Ipswich, SD; Herreid, SD; Leola, SD; Long Lake, SD; Glenham, SD; Pollock, SD; and Mound City, SD.
- Applicant may only apply for ONE Valley Telecommunications Scholarship Award.
- *Immediate family members of Valley Telecommunications employees and/or directors are not eligible.*

## How to Apply

- Applicant must complete the attached application and questionnaire. Typed responses are required. (An additional page may be used if needed.) Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Applicant must complete the 500 word essay portion of the questionnaire. (Question 7 on the application).
- Applicant must complete the Consent and Release Form included with this application.
- **Applicant must include a yearbook style photo for publication.** This must be a high-resolution photo (300 dpi minimum). **No Copies or Scans will be accepted.**
- Application must be signed by the applicant's High School Guidance Counselor or Principal. This school official must also provide GPA, Class Rank Information, and Official Transcript. The **Official School Stamp Is Required.**  
*References will not be accepted.*

## Award Procedure

- Nine (9) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. If no applications are received from a particular community as indicated under eligibility, the scholarship for that community will not be awarded. At Large scholarships will not be awarded.
- Scholarship winners will be selected by an independent third-party, and based on community involvement, school activities, essay responses, grade point average, and overall appearance of the application.
- Scholarships will be presented at each school's Academic Awards Program or Graduation Ceremony, at the schools request.
- Scholarship will apply towards the applicants second-semester tuition and will be mailed directly to the winning applicant after proof of enrollment is received by the Valley office in January of the award year. Should the applicant's enrollment status change, Valley must be notified immediately to prevent jeopardizing the scholarship.

*Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.*

**Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2026. Mail your application and supporting materials to:**

**Valley Telecommunications  
Scholarship Applications  
PO Box 7  
Herreid, SD 57632-0007**

**Questions? Call 605.437.2615**

**Late applications will not be considered.**



# 2026 College Scholarship Application

## Applicant Information *(to be completed by the applicant)*

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)*

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(If Applicable)*

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(City) (State) (Zip Code)*

Name of High School Currently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Community Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name & Address of College, University, or Vocational/Technical School You Plan to Attend:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Intended Major, Program, or Area of Study:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Applicant Certification

*I confirm that the information on this application is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I grant permission to Valley Telecommunications to contact my school if necessary.*

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Late applications will not be considered.*



# 2026 College Scholarship Application

## Consent and Release Form

I hereby grant to Valley Telecommunications, its advertising agency, licensees and producers or publishers of its promotional materials and their successors and assigns, the right to use, publish and copyright my picture, portrait and/or videotaped/filmed likeness, in whole or in part, including alterations, modifications, derivations and composites thereof, in advertising, promotion and social media of Valley Telecommunications.

I waive any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product or advertising copy of the ad that may be used in conjunction with this image to the eventual use of that which it is applied.

I hereby warrant that I am of full age and competent to contract in my own name in so far as the above is concerned. I have read the foregoing release and warrant that I fully understand the contents thereof.

Please sign below to acknowledge your consent for photographic likeness to be used in printed publications, ads, brochures, or other published materials, and/or electronic marketing purposes.

Minors: If applicant is under 18 years of age, the minor’s parent or guardian must complete and sign the form and further agree:

I am the parent or guardian of the minor listed below. I have fully authority to authorize the above release, which I have read and approved. I hereby release and agree to indemnify the licensed parties and their respective successors and assigns, from and against any and all liability arising out of the exercise of the rights granted by the above release.

Full Name of Applicant (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2026. Mail your application and supporting materials to: Valley Telecommunications, Scholarship Applications, PO Box 7, Herreid, SD 57632-0007  
Late applications will not be considered.*



# 2026 College Scholarship Application

## School Guidance Counselor or High School Principal Certification

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Overall Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ students

*I confirm that the information provided above, as part of the Valley Telecommunications Scholarship, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, as recorded in the student's permanent record on file.*

Printed Name of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of School Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Official School Stamp is Required.  
Official Student Transcript Must Be Attached.**



# 2026 College Scholarship Application

## Application Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions.  
(A separate sheet of paper may be used.).  
Please include each question along with your answer.  
Typed responses are required.

1. What high school activities have you been involved with during your four years of high school?

2. What prompted you to select the College/University/Vocational-Technical School that you have chosen?

3. How has living in a rural area influenced your decision to further your education?

4. In your opinion, how has today's technology played a part in your high school education and how will it affect your future?

5. What is the difference between a Cooperative, such as Valley Telecommunications, and a Corporation?

6. Why do you feel you are the best qualified applicant for the Valley Telecommunications Scholarship?

7. In your opinion, what is the importance of rural co-operatives in South Dakota?  
**The essay submission must be original and written without the use of AI tools. Submissions found to be AI-generated may be disqualified. Must be a minimum of 500 words.**

## Application Checklist

- Completed Application Form
- Completed Questionnaire
- Completed Consent & Release Form
- Year-Book Style Photo (high-resolution)
- Guidance Counselor/Principal Certification (must include official school stamp)
- Official School Transcript

**Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2026.**

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Valley Telecommunications  
Scholarship Applications  
PO Box 7  
Herreid, SD 57632-0007

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