



# **SMITH VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #89**

2901 Highway 2 West, Kalispell, Montana 59901

PHONE: 406-756-4535 • FAX: 406-756-4534

## **2023 Smith Valley School Scholarship**

### **Explanation & Requirements:**

#### **Scholarship Award:**

Smith Valley will award a total of \$1000.00 either to one recipient or split between two recipients.

#### **Qualifications:**

- ▶▶ Applicants must be a current graduating senior attending high school in Flathead County, AND
- ▶▶ Applicants must:
  - Have attended 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades and graduated from Smith Valley School
  - OR**
  - Have attended Smith Valley School for four or more consecutive years

#### **Application Package must include:**

- ▶▶ Complete Smith Valley School Scholarship Application. Available at high schools, by request, or electronically on website: [www.smithvalleyschool.org](http://www.smithvalleyschool.org)
- ▶▶ Essay, in applicant's own words (see options on page 3)
- ▶▶ Copy of High School Transcript

### **Scholarship Deadline: 4:00 p.m. February 17, 2023**

In order to be considered for this scholarship, complete application package must be received in the district office by the deadline.

#### **Completed applications must be submitted to:**

Smith Valley Elementary School

Attention: Mrs. Matt

2901 Highway 2 West

Kalispell, Montana 59901

Fax: 756-4534

Electronic: e-mail to: [trish@smithvalleyschool.org](mailto:trish@smithvalleyschool.org)

#### **Winning applicant(s):**

- ▶▶ Must provide proof that they are a 'Candidate for degree' as defined by the IRS. (See page 4)
- ▶▶ Upon receiving proof of enrollment - a check will be drafted in either the name of the institution, or the individual for school related expenses, as defined by the IRS.

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## **Winning Applicants for the Smith Valley School scholarship:**

**Within one year of high school graduation, you must provide the following to the Smith Valley school business manager:**

▶▶ Proof that you are enrolled in an institution of higher learning (college, university or trade school) as a **'Candidate for degree'** as defined by the IRS.

Upon receipt of proof of enrollment, a check will be drafted in either the name of the institution, or the individual for **qualified educational expenses**, as defined by the IRS. Please allow one to two weeks for check to be drafted.

The following information from the IRS may help to stay within the parameters of their expectations. You can also go to: <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch01.html>

### **Tax-Free Scholarships and Fellowship Grants:**

A scholarship or fellowship grant is tax free (excludable from gross income) **only** if you are a candidate for a degree at an eligible educational institution.

**Candidate for a degree:** You are a candidate for a degree if you:

1. Are pursuing a degree at a college or university, or
2. Attend an educational institution that:
  1. Provides a program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's or higher degree, or offers a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; and
  2. Is authorized under federal or state law to provide such a program and is accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

### **Qualified education expenses for purposes of tax-free scholarships and fellowship grants:**

- Tuition and fees required to enroll at or attend an eligible educational institution; and
- Course-related expenses, such as fees, books, supplies, and equipment that are *required* for the course. These items must be required of all students in your course of instruction.

**Expenses that don't qualify:** Qualified education expenses don't include the cost of:

Room & Board                      Travel                      Research                      Clerical Help

Equipment & other expenses that aren't required for enrollment in or attendance at an eligible institution.

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## Smith Valley School Scholarship Application

<p><b><u>About You:</u></b></p> <p>Full Name: _____</p> <p>Date of Birth: _____</p> <p>Years or grades you went to Smith Valley: _____</p> <p>Anticipated HS graduation date: _____</p>	<p><b><u>Contact Information:</u></b></p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Cell phone #: _____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p>
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### **Educational Plans**

Career Goal: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated College Major: (list all majors considered)

College / Trade School Choices in Order of Preference:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### **School & Community Involvement:**

Summary of Volunteer & community service work:

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Summary of school or other activities/athletics you've been involved with:

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## **School & Work Accomplishments:**

Summary of your work history (if applicable):

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What are some of your greatest accomplishments in your high school career?

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Your high school G.P.A \_\_\_\_\_ Rank in Class \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## **Financial Need:**

Based on 0-10 where 0 is no need and 10 is 100% need, how would you rate your financial need?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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How adequately are you able to meet college expenses? FAFSA information summarizes need by what proportion of a student's college education their formula determines the family can finance. However, families often have obligations which are not easily explained by filling out a form. Please describe how this scholarship will help you reach your goals.

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**Essay:** Select one of the following. On one page or less:

- Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.
- Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.
- Why are you a good candidate to receive this award?
- Who in your life has been your biggest influence and why?
- How has your family background affected the way you see the world?
- How has your education contributed to who you are today?

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