Last Name _____   First Name _____

Credit Union: _____   Credit Union Verification Code: _____

Fund Your College Dreams!

Scholarship Application & Guidelines

The Sweet Home Federal Credit Union and the New York Credit Union Association (NYCUA) are partnering to offer their college or trade school bound members a scholarship opportunity. The program is designed to provide funds that would be used toward tuition, room and board, books, and school supplies. Sweet Home FCU awards scholarships to be paid directly to the student, and the NYCUA awards scholarships to be paid jointly to the student and educational institution.

Am I eligible?

The applicant must be a member in good standing of a participating New York credit union who meets all of the following criteria:

- Is a college-bound high school senior at the time of submitting the application
- Is attending college for the first time in the fall of 2025
- Will be enrolled in a two- or four-year accredited educational institution or trade school
- Agrees to use any scholarship funds awarded by January 31, 2026, at an accredited educational institution only

Application Process

To apply, eligible members must complete the scholarship application form. Applicants should use only the space provided on the form to answer the questions. Other than what's specified below, no attachments, resumes, pictures or other material of any kind should be submitted or used to answer the questions.

If an applicant is a member of more than one credit union and submits an application to both, only one application will be scored for a state-level award. Both applications will be considered for any credit union-level awards that may be available.

Application Checklist

✔ Check each box after completion.

☐ The applicant must obtain a credit union verification code from their credit union in order to verify eligibility.
☐ The application must be submitted with:
   ☐ A high school transcript documenting the student's GPA for grades 9-11
   ☐ An essay response
☐ The applicant and his/her parent or guardian must complete the Certification and Release Authorization on the last page of the application form.

1. Be sure you're submitting three separate files (either pdf or Word document - no Google docs).

2. When submitting your application, it will ask for you to fill out fields for Nominee and Nominated By. You will need to input your name and email address for both sections (all other fields can be left blank).

3. The message "Nomination successfully saved" will appear when the application has been successfully submitted.

4. If you are unable to submit your application online, you can bring the completed application and supporting documents to the credit union for submission.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY JANUARY 17TH, 2025

Selection Process: Judging will be based on academic achievements, extracurricular and community activities, and the essay.

Application Deadline: Applications must be submitted to the New York Credit Union Association no later than January 17th, 2025.

Application Form

This application will not be considered unless all information is completed in full, on this form only, and all requested documentation is provided.

Please only use the space provided on this form to answer the questions. Do not use any attachments, resumes, pictures or other material of any kind to answer the questions. Please do not include letters of recommendation. Winners will be notified by your credit union in May.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

High School _____ Anticipated Graduation ___/___/___

High School Honors & Awards

Please list honors and awards and grade(s) of participation. Use this space only.
Examples: honor roll, National Honor Society, Who's Who, Principal's awards, science fair awards, college book awards, student/athlete awards, Empire State Games team, Eagle Scout classification, Girl Scouts Gold award.

1. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   6. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

2. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   7. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

3. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   8. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

4. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   9. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

5. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   10. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

High School Activities

Please list high school activities and grade(s) of participation. Use this space only.
Examples: sports teams, clubs, band, drama, choral, orchestra, yearbook, school newspaper, MathCounts, LifeSmarts, tutoring.

1. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   6. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

2. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   7. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

3. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   8. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

4. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   9. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

5. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   10. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

Community Activities & Volunteer Work

Please list community activities and volunteer work and grade(s) of participation. Use this space only. *Examples: scouting, specific community service projects, specific community volunteerism, religious youth groups, and youth counseling.*

1. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   6. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

2. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   7. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

3. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   8. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

4. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   9. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

5. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   10. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

Leadership Positions Held (elected or appointed)

Please list leadership positions held and the grade(s) of participation. Use this space only. *Examples: class officer, club officer, sports team leader, scouting leader, student government officer, band/orchestra 1st chair.*

1. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   6. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

2. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   7. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

3. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   8. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

4. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   9. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

5. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12   10. _____ ❏ 9 ❏ 10 ❏ 11 ❏ 12

Essay

Please respond to the following questions in a comprehensive essay. Your response should be between 300–500 words. Please be sure to cite all sources. **If any portion of the essay is plagiarized, the entire application will be disqualified. This includes the use of any generative AI software or programs to create any portion of your essay. Also, please ensure that you have answered each of the components of the essay.** Personal narratives or other unrelated essays will not be eligible for credit, but you are encouraged to use personal experiences and examples as they relate to the question below.
- Be sure to include your name at the top of your essay.
- Use 12-point font and double-space your essay response.

Question: Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives that exist to serve members, not generate profit. "People helping people" is the philosophical foundation of these institutions. What do you see as the value of this foundation? Please explain.
In addition:
- What makes your credit union different than a for-profit financial institution?;
- How does your credit union demonstrate credit union's "people helping people" philosophy?; and
- If you ran your credit union, what is one new initiative/program you would implement?

Certification & Release Authorization

The following information must be completed for the applicant to be considered for a scholarship award.
- *I certify this information is true, complete and accurate.*
- *I authorize the release of this information to confirm and/or verify this application.*
- *I agree to use any scholarship funds awarded at an accredited educational institution by January 31st, 2026.*
- *I authorize the New York Credit Union Association and _____ (credit union name) to publish my child's name and/or photo for the use of promotional materials, news releases and/or social media.*

Member Signature (Student) _____ **Date** ___/___/___

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date ___/___/___