

# Maple River Dollars for Scholars

## Scholarship Awards Policy

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**Policy Statement:** The Maple River Dollars for Scholars (MR DFS) aims to provide financial assistance to graduating seniors of Maple River High School who plan to pursue postsecondary education. The organization is committed to ensuring that scholarships are awarded in a fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory manner.

The scholarship program will open on or before January 15 and close on April 15 each year. The awards are open to any Maple River senior within the current graduating year, regardless of the type of postsecondary education program they will attend, if the school is accredited.

### Applying for Scholarships:

1. Students must complete the Student Profile in ChapterNet accessible via our website [www.mapleriver.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.mapleriver.dollarsforscholars.org).
2. Scholarship applicants must complete at least 75% of their electronic application and the Goals Essay to be eligible for scholarships.
3. Applicants who complete at least 75% of their application, but not the Goals Essay, are only eligible for the minimum scholarship through Maple River Dollars for Scholars.

### Scholarship Awards:

- The minimum award is \$300 per scholarship.
- Donations of \$300 or more may become a named scholarship and carry the name of the donor or the designated individual/organization, unless specified as anonymous.
- Donations of less than \$300 will be added to the general scholarship fund and distributed during the scholarship awarding process.
- Annuity or endowment funds will be discussed annually by the Maple River Dollars for Scholars Board to determine distribution towards scholarships for the current year.
- Full scholarship sponsors will be notified of their scholarship recipient by letter in late spring.

### Selection Process:

- By April 15, if the applicant has completed the application to meet the criteria above and applied for at least one scholarship, other unsubmitted applications would be manually moved forward prior to judging.
- By April 15, applicants who have not completed at least 75% of their application will not be considered for any scholarships through Maple River Dollars for Scholars.
- The Awards Selection Committee will score all applications electronically using the point system outlined by Scholarship America.
- All awards will be determined on an anonymous and non-discriminatory basis.
- Scholarship recipients will be mailed a letter notifying them of their awarded scholarships.

### Acceptance and Verification:

- Scholarship recipients must accept their scholarships through their online account by October 15 of their graduation year.
  - Students must have their student identification number at the college attending and the college start date.
- Failure to accept the scholarships by October 15, will result in a forfeit of the scholarship funds.

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### Process for Claiming Scholarship Funds:

Scholarship recipients may claim their scholarship funds after completing their first or second semester of college. The final deadline to claim the scholarship funds is June 30 of the year following their high school graduation. Failure to submit the required documentation by the stated deadline will result in forfeiture of scholarship funds.

- Scholarship recipients must provide an unofficial transcript (including their name, student ID, classes complete, credits earned, classes registered for next term and GPA), as confirmation they meet the following criteria to receive their scholarship award:
  - Enrolled in a post-secondary college or university.
  - Earned a grade point average of "C" or higher during enrollment.
  - Registered for the upcoming term.
- These documents should be sent to [mapleriverdfs@gmail.com](mailto:mapleriverdfs@gmail.com) or Maple River Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 343, Mapleton MN, 56065.
- Upon verification that the student has met the criteria, a check, in the amount of the total scholarship funds awarded, will be mailed to the financial aid office of the recipient's college. Checks will not be written directly to students.

*Disclaimer: The MR DFS policy pertains to the Maple River Dollars for Scholars scholarships. Any scholarships outside this organization may require different processes for obtaining funds.*

### Award Deferral Process:

- Students postponing postsecondary attendance due to personal circumstances or military service may defer their award for up to one year, subject to approval by the Maple River Dollars for Scholars Board. The student must notify the Maple River Dollars for Scholars Board in writing, on or before June 30 of the year following high school graduation.
  - The request should be sent to [mapleriverdfs@gmail.com](mailto:mapleriverdfs@gmail.com) or Maple River Dollars for Scholars, PO Box 343, Mapleton MN, 56065.
- All deferrals are subject to Maple River Dollars for Scholars Board review and approval.
- Funds unused within 1 year from the deferral will be placed back in the general scholarship fund.

### Recognition:

- Scholarship recipients and donors will be recognized at the annual awards ceremony, in the local newspaper, on the Maple River Dollars for Scholars website, in the annual Maple River Dollars for Scholars flyer, and through various media channels.

### Review and Updates:

- The Scholarship Awards Policy will be reviewed annually by the Awards Selection Committee, prior to the start of Maple River Dollars for Scholars scholarship cycle.
- Any changes to the policy will be documented and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Scholarship America shall be notified of any approved changes, within ten (10) days.
- All changes and updates to the document, along with the vote of the Board of Directors, will be documented in Maple River Dollars for Scholars' meeting minutes.