

2026

SDATAT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The South Dakota Association of Towns & Townships is offering one \$1500, one \$1000 and one \$500 scholarship to three senior high school students who reside in South Dakota, are currently attending a South Dakota public, private, parochial high school or a home school program, and live in a town or township that is a **current member of SDATAT**. (A membership list is available on the sdtownships.com website) or contact your local town/township board. Graduates of the class of 2026 are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The student must use the scholarship for a college, university, or vocational school which has a physical presence in South Dakota.

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with their essay on this year's topic:

America is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year. Is living in America a gift to you? Why or why not? From the perspective of a young person, what elements of America are worth protecting? As part of an interview with at least two veterans, ask them that question. Share at length their thoughts, how they differ from your own and what their service means to you.

Guidelines for the essay are:

- Essays must be no more than 500 words, and must be typed with double spacing.
- * The essay must be original with no use of Artificial Intelligence (any use of AI will be disqualified)
- * Applicants should **not include** identifying information such as their name, school, town or township, or their local officials anywhere in the essay or on the essay itself.
- * Criteria for judging the essays includes: following guidelines, originality, depth of subject matter in relationship to the title, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- * The application may be accompanied by no more than two, one-page support letters.

The completed application, typed essay, and letters of support, if any, should be submitted in one envelope addressed to: SDATAT Scholarship, PO Box 903, Huron, SD 57350.

Deadline for the application is April 1, 2026 postmark. No late applications will be considered.

The scholarship award will be paid to the appropriate financial aid office upon notification of enrollment at a South Dakota college, university or technical school in September of the winners second year of study.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Your phone number _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ School Presently Attending _____

What small town or township do you reside? _____ / County _____

Is your small town/township a member of SDATAT? _____ Yes _____ No (list at sdtownships.com web site)

Parent's name _____

Hobbies or activities of interest: _____

Future Goals _____

*You may submit one typed double spaced page with additional information about yourself.