



Teton County Scholarship Program: 2023-2024 Student Guide

WHAT IS THE TETON COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

[Teton County Scholarship Program](#) (TCSP) is a local nonprofit program that provides scholarships to graduating seniors in Teton County, Wyoming. It is administered by the [Fund for Public Education](#) and [Community Foundation of Jackson Hole](#) in partnership with [Teton County School District](#).

HOW MANY SCHOLARSHIPS DOES TCSP OFFER?

TCSP offers over 70 scholarships funded by local individuals, families, foundations, businesses, nonprofits, and civic groups.

HOW MUCH ARE THOSE SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH?

Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$25,000; the average award is \$3,700. Students may win more than one scholarship, however, please keep in mind that very few students win enough to cover the entire cost of college. About 65% of applicants will receive funding through TCSP.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR TCSP SCHOLARSHIPS?

Any student graduating from a Teton County, Wyoming high school is eligible to apply for TCSP scholarships. This includes homeschooled students. TCSP also offers a small number of scholarships to Teton County high school juniors, high school seniors attending a school outside of Teton County, and college students.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Most students will apply in their senior year of high school. The application period opens in mid-November and runs through mid-January. Applications are not accepted outside of this period.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Apply at TetonScholarships.org in English or Spanish. Our application uses software called Survey Monkey Apply (SMA). You will be required to create an SMA account. While the initial form is quick, the preparation of essays can take some time. We recommend that you give yourself at least 2 weeks to complete your application. You are welcome to apply for all eligible scholarships, however, we recommend that you focus on the 5-10 that best fit your needs.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE APPLICATION REQUIRE?

The application consists of 9 parts:

1. An eligibility quiz to determine which scholarships are the best fit for you
2. Student and parent/guardian contact information
3. Academic history and college plans
4. Extra-curriculars, volunteerism, and employment
5. Financial need
6. A short video essay describing your goals
7. A copy of your most recent transcript

8. Contact information for one reference willing to provide a letter of recommendation
9. Most scholarships also require an additional written essay

WHERE CAN TCSP SCHOLARSHIPS BE USED?

TCSP scholarships may be used at most four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and vocational/trade schools in the US. Please see the TCSP booklet for the exact requirements of each scholarship.

WHAT EXPENSES WILL THE SCHOLARSHIP COVER?

TCSP wants to give families as much flexibility as possible to pay for college, and so our scholarships generally apply to all costs of attendance. These include:

- Tuition and fees
- Books, course materials, supplies, and equipment
- Cost of housing and food
- Transportation expenses
- Fees related to school medical insurance and services
- Costs of obtaining a license, certification, or professional credential related to your degree
- Please note that the IRS is stricter on what it considers [qualified educational expenses](#). Funds used for non-qualified expenses like housing, food, travel, and insurance may be subject to taxes.

WHAT EXPENSES ARE NOT COVERED?

- Personal expenses, such as entertainment, recreation, clothes, self-care and grooming services
- Activities that do not generate credit toward your degree, certificate, or license
- Non-academic programs, such as National Outdoor Leadership Program (NOLS) and Outward Bound

HOW ARE WINNERS CHOSEN?

TCSP's review committees are looking for students who stand out. Show them what makes you exceptional, whether that's academic success, athletic achievement, community service and involvement, artistic ability, outstanding character, or a challenge that you've overcome. Financial need is also considered for most scholarships, including those that are merit-based. The average household income of a TCSP winner is less than \$200,000 annually.

WHEN ARE WINNERS ANNOUNCED AND FUNDS DISBURSED?

Winners will be notified in late April by email. In June, winners will receive a disbursement form through their **personal email** and be asked to provide information about their chosen school. Disbursements then begin in July. Awards not claimed by December 31st of the award year are forfeited. Students may defer their awards for up to 1 year for academic or financial reasons, or 2 years for a religious mission. It is the student's responsibility to ensure we have their most up to date contact information.

WHAT FINANCIAL INFORMATION WILL I NEED TO SHARE WITH TCSP?

In addition to financial information in the scholarship application, students who win \$25,000 or more in scholarships will be asked to work together with TCSP staff to create a customized disbursement plan to maximize the use of scholarship funds over their time in college. We may ask for information regarding the cost of attendance at your chosen school and your financial aid package to ensure scholarship funds are maximized during your time in college. Regardless of award size, all students can opt to work with TCSP staff if a customized disbursement plan is needed.

Contact the TCSP team at info@tetonscholarships.org for more information.