



# Annual Memorial Scholarship Program\*

## 2026 Official Rules

**DCU for Kids Foundation**, a philanthropic extension of **DCU (Digital Federal Credit Union)**, recognizes the lifetime value of a college education. The Annual Memorial Scholarship Program is designed to assist outstanding students with the cost of this education in recognition of students' hard work and their interest in pursuing higher education. Beginning **December 12, 2025**, students in their **senior year of high school**, who will be attending a **state or nationally accredited college or university in the Fall of 2026** can apply for the Annual Memorial Scholarship Program\*. Scholarships are awarded on academic merit, teachers' references, an original essay, awards and recognition, and extracurricular and community service activities. An impartial panel of business professionals and collegiate educators will judge the participants' entries.

In 2025, DCU for Kids Foundation awarded 80 scholarships totaling \$150,000.

**In 2026, scholarship awards will range from \$1,500 to \$2,500.**

## Instructions

Read the Official Rules below then visit the secure scholarship portal to create a login and submit an application at [https://webportalapp.com/sp/dcu\\_2026](https://webportalapp.com/sp/dcu_2026). Applications and all supporting materials including transcripts and letters of recommendation must be received through **the scholarship portal by 3pm (ET) on Friday, March 6, 2026**. Any materials received after the deadline date will not be considered. No exceptions.

Scholarship winners will be notified by email in **late April 2026**. Winners will be required to submit an award confirmation form through the scholarship portal before receiving the award. No deferment of awards will be allowed.

For a list of FAQs, please visit: [Scholarship FAQs](#)

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact [scholarships@dcu.org](mailto:scholarships@dcu.org)

## Official Rules

- 1. Judging Criteria** – The winning students will be the ones judged most likely to excel in college as determined by an impartial panel of business professionals and collegiate educators. Judgments are based on the following factors:
  - An **unofficial transcript** of your high school grades for **senior year** (to date) **AND junior year** (full year)
  - Academic merit
  - Two written letters of reference from any junior or senior class teachers and/or guidance counselors  
(Note: **NO** extracurricular, community or faith-based leader, or employer reference letters will be accepted.)
  - An essay judged on the quality of writing and the reasoning used
  - Awards and recognition
  - Extracurricular and community service activities
- 2. Entry Qualifications\*** – To enter, the student must...
  - Be a graduating high school senior.
  - Be registered to attend a state or nationally accredited two or four-year college or university in the **Fall of 2026**.
- 3. The Essay** – The essay should answer the following essay prompt and be no more than 300 words in length (the essay will appear as a question within the application):

“DCU for Kids strives to improve the quality of life for children in need. In our efforts to accomplish this mission we embrace DCU’s three overall principles: People Come First; Do the Right Thing; & Make a Difference.

Describe how you might apply these similar principles to your life now and how you would intend to incorporate these principles as a part of your education and career path. How would this vision impact both your personal and professional relationships?”

A DCU membership has no bearing on whether or not you receive a scholarship. Scholarships are based on the judging criteria outlined in Section 1. of the Official Rules.
- 4. Schedule** – Applications and all supporting materials (including transcripts and letters of recommendation) must be received **through the scholarship portal by 3pm (ET) on Friday, March 6, 2026**. Any materials received after the deadline date and time will not be sent for judging regardless of circumstance. NO emails will be accepted with documents. Scholarship winners will be notified in **late April 2026** and will be required to complete confirmation of award request by the designated deadline.
- 5. Publicity** – By entering, winners agree to have their names published in DCU and DCU for Kids newsletters, signs, web site, affiliated web sites, and news releases announcing the results at DCU and DCU for Kids’ discretion.