



KIITA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Kiita Foundation Scholarship Fund was established at Whitefish Community Foundation in 2023 to help a financially independent student earn a bachelor's degree. One scholarship of up to \$10,000 is awarded annually to a high-achieving student who cannot rely on family members to help pay for college expenses. This scholarship is renewable for up to four years and includes opportunities to participate in international service projects in Mexico.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The application deadline is Friday, April 5, 2024 at 11:59 MST. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Awards will be announced in May, 2024.

Applications must be submitted online. The online application is available by logging into Whitefish Community Foundation's scholarship portal at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=wcf scholarship>

One successful candidate will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Applicant criteria:

- Applicant must be a graduating senior from Whitefish High School or Whitefish Independent High School in Whitefish, Montana.
- Applicant must be financially independent and not able to rely on their family to help pay for college expenses.
- Applicant must show evidence of a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0.
- Applicant must intend to enroll in a four-year institution within the Montana University System to pursue a bachelor's degree in the coming fall.
- Preference will be given to individuals with a proven history of community involvement/volunteerism and a strong work ethic.

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2. The application will include:

- One letter of recommendation uploaded by a current or former teacher, professor, or instructor written in the calendar year the application is submitted. (NOTE: **Letter of recommendation will be uploaded by the person providing the reference, not by the applicant. Reference providers must upload their letters by the application deadline.**)
- One letter of recommendation uploaded by a current or former employer or community involvement supervisor written in the calendar year the application is submitted. (NOTE: **Letter of recommendation will be uploaded by the person providing the reference, not by the applicant. Reference providers must upload their letters by the application deadline.**)
- Most current high school transcript.
- The following essay questions:
 - i. Please describe a challenge you are overcoming as you pursue your goal of attending a post-secondary educational institution. Explain why you need the assistance of this scholarship.
 - ii. Please describe any special attributes or accomplishments that set you apart from the crowd.
 - iii. Please explain what you believe you are capable of achieving once you have earned a bachelor's degree. You may explain this in terms of your life goals, career goals, and/or goals within your community.

Please contact Jill Seigmund at Whitefish Community Foundation with questions: (406) 863-1781 or jill@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org