



D.K. SPRAGUE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment was developed by the Gun Lake Tribe and is committed to providing financial assistance to area high school students planning to attend a college, university, institute, or trade school. This scholarship is open to all area high school students who meet eligibility requirements and do need not be a Gun Lake Tribal Citizen, Citizen of any other federally recognized tribe, or of Tribal or Indigenous descent.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment, an applicant must be a current high school senior in one of the following five counties: Allegan, Barry, Kent, Kalamazoo, or Ottawa, and submit all of the following documentation (Word or PDF only no links), in one emailed submission to scholarships@gltnsn.gov , **by**

11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2026.

- ☐ Class schedule or acceptance letter to an accredited college, university, or trade school.
- ☐ Completed endowment application.
- ☐ Official high school transcript, showing a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or greater.
- ☐ At least two letters of recommendation in Word or PDF format, from non-relative, describing the student's scholastic career and leadership abilities.
- ☐ Community service and leadership resume in Word or PDF format.
- ☐ Personal essay that meets the following criteria:
 - Provided as a Word document.
 - 800 – 1,200 words in length.
 - Describes why you are passionate about your chosen career path and how it can benefit your community.
 - Describes how you have already demonstrated leadership skills and community service.
 - Details how you plan to continue to serve as a leader as you pursue education beyond high school.
 - Please note, essays may touch on other relevant information, but should clearly focus on the above topics.
 - See Personal Essay Content in the scoring rubric for details on how essays will be scored.

AWARD PROCESS

The D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment Scholarship committee will consist of members appointed by the Gun Lake Tribal Council. The Endowment will be awarded to one student from each of the five counties listed above. Each recipient will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$20,000; to be paid out in payments of \$5,000 per school year, over the course of four years. The scholarship will be issued in the form of a check made out jointly to the intended school and the student. Winners will be notified by May 8, 2026 and an awards night for the recipients will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026.

DISCONTINUATION OR ADJUSTMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

The D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment committee may discontinue or adjust the scholarship if the student chooses to withdraw from the higher education institution designated on the Scholarship Application. To maintain eligibility, the student will be required to submit their unofficial transcripts to the committee annually that reflect a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

No applicant will be disqualified from the D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment based on age, religion, color, gender, sexual preference, height, weight, national origin, handicap, or physical disabilities.



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D.K. SPRAGUE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Legal Name

Permanent Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Email Address

EDUCATION INFORMATION

Allegan Barry Kalamazoo Kent Ottawa

Current High School

County (circle)

College/University/Institute/Trade School

Intended Field of Study

I certify that the information given is true to the best of my knowledge. I also agree that the Gun Lake Tribe may share my contact information internally for purposes of fulfilling the terms of the D.K. Sprague Educational Scholarship Endowment.

Applicant Signature or Parent/Guardian (if under 18)

Date

Application Deadline is 11:59 p.m. on March 15, 2026.

Please submit all required documents, in one submission by:

Email:

scholarships@gltnsn.gov



SCORING RUBRIC

	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excels
Academic Achievement	0 Points Student meets minimum 3.75 GPA, with no advanced placement/college courses	2 Points Student meets minimum 3.75 GPA, with some advance placement/college courses.	4 Points Student has at least a 4.0 GPA with some advance placement/college courses.	6 Points Student has above a 4.0 GPA, with some advance placement/college courses.
Letters of Recommendation	0 Points Letters provide no personal knowledge of student's character, achievements, and leadership.	2 Points Letters provide positive personal comments about the student but fails to give examples of student's character, achievements.	4 Points Letters provide positive personal comments about the student and gives some examples of student's character, achievements, and leadership.	6 Points Letters provide positive personal comments about the student, and examples of student's character, achievements, leadership and community involvement.
Community Involvement	0 Points No community involvement, with no extenuating circumstances.	2 Points Less than three examples of community involvement, vague descriptions.	4 Points Three or more examples of community involvement, with no leadership roles.	6 Points Three or more examples of community involvement, with at least 1 leadership role.
Personal Essay Content	0 Points Essay does not clearly focus on the given topics.	2 Points Essay touches on the given topics, does not provide any strong examples or supporting details.	4 Points Essay clearly focuses on the given topics, with at least one strong example or supporting detail.	6 Points Essay clearly focuses on the given topics, with multiple strong examples and supporting details.
Personal Essay Mechanics	0 Points Essay is not written clearly, contains many spelling/ grammar/ punctuation errors, and/or does not meet length requirements.	2 Points Essay contains more than a few spelling/ grammar/ punctuation errors, and stays within length requirements.	4 Points Essay contains few spelling/ grammar/ punctuation errors and stays within length requirements.	6 Points Essay contains no spelling/ grammar/ punctuation errors and stays within length requirements.
Total Points				

Applicant Total (30 Possible): _____