

2026 Scholarship Information

Willmar Municipal Utilities will select three essay contestants to receive \$1000 scholarships in 2026.

Guidelines

Because decisions by judges and disqualifications according to the guidelines are final, entrants should read and follow these guidelines closely:

- Write an original, (no AI) 500 to 750 words, typed, double spaced essay on one or more of the following prompts:
 - What is the benefit of a city maintaining local control of its utilities?
 - How does your hometown provide reliable, sustainable, and affordable utility service?
 - How does your municipal utility make life easier for its customers?
- Judges will look particularly for originality and the relevance of the prompts to the writer and his/her city.
- High school seniors are eligible. Those eligible must be, or have as a legal guardian, a current customer of Willmar Municipal Utilities. Children or Grandchildren of current employees are not eligible.
- All essays should include a cover page, with the writer's name and address, as well as an application form.
- **Entries shall be submitted to WMU by 4:00 p.m., March 20th, 2026.** A committee at WMU will select and notify scholarship recipients, in April, 2026.

Resource Material

Valuable resources on this topic can be found at our website (www.wmu.willmar.mn.us), as well as Minnesota Municipal Utility Association (www.mmua.org), Missouri River Energy Services (www.mrenergy.com) and the American Public Power Association (www.publicpower.org).

Payment

Scholarship money will be payable upon receipt of fee statement copy from an accredited post-secondary educational institution. The award check will be made payable to the contest winner and the post-secondary institution. If the contest winner does not attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution within two years, the money will revert to a trust fund and become available to future contest winners.

WMU Scholarship Entry Form

Three (3) \$1000 Scholarships will be awarded.

Student Information

Student Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Legal Guardian name(s): _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

High School Attending: _____ Graduation date: _____

Utility Account Number: _____

Submit form to Willmar Municipal Utilities along with cover page and essay.

Deadline: 4:00p.m., March 20, 2026.

Applications may be submitted one of the following ways:

U.S. Mail:

*Willmar Municipal Utilities
Scholarship Award Program
PO Box 937
Willmar, MN 56201*

Drop off at office location:

*700 SW Litchfield Ave,
Willmar, MN 56201*

Email: energyservices@wmu.willmar.mn.us

For questions or additional information, please contact

energyservices@wmu.willmar.mn.us.