



New Prague Utilities/SMMPA College Scholarship Program

Scholarship

The New Prague Utilities/SMMPA scholarship program awards one \$1,000 scholarship for higher education each spring.

Eligible Schools and Areas of Study

The scholarship may be used at any accredited postsecondary educational institution in the State of Minnesota. The scholarship may be used for any program that ultimately provides a degree or a diploma.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must be high school graduates (past or anticipated) and must be (or have a parent or legal guardian that is) a customer of New Prague Utilities. There is no age limitation, but applicants must be enrolling at a higher education institution for the first time. Individuals that participated in a PSEO program in high school are eligible.

Application Submission Requirements

To apply, applicants must submit the following materials:

1. **Application Form** – Complete the official New Prague Utilities/SMMPA Scholarship application.
2. **Activity & Experience List** – Provide a summary of any academic achievements, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, community involvement, and/or work experience you would like to be considered.
3. **Essay** – Attach a 300-word essay on the importance of public service, focusing on your personal role in serving your community and how your continued education will benefit both your community and society as a whole. The essay must be:
 - o Double-spaced
 - o Font size 12
 - o Submitted in Word (doc/docx) or PDF format
4. **Optional Supporting Materials** – Applicants may submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, employer, or community leader, as well as transcripts or other documentation to support their application.

Submission Methods:

All materials must be submitted by **March 16th, 2026** via one of the following methods:

In Person: New Prague Utilities (118 Central Ave N, New Prague, MN 56071)

Mail: New Prague Utilities, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 118 Central Ave N, New Prague,

MN 56071

Email: Klee@ci.new-prague.mn.us (If submitting by email, a confirmation email will be sent. If not received, please call 952-758-4401 before the deadline.)

Selection

A local selection committee, consisting of New Prague Utilities staff and New Prague Utilities Commission board members, will review applications and announce the award by May 1st, 2026.

While academic success, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, community involvement, and work experience will be considered, the selection committee will place significant emphasis on applicants pursuing a degree or diploma in a utility-related field, such as:

- Electric line work
- Water operations
- Skilled trades (plumbing, electrical, HVAC, welding, mechanics)
- Business, accounting, or engineering

Disbursement Details

The scholarship will be paid in full directly to the recipient's educational institution upon receipt of an invoice from the institution confirming the recipient's enrollment.

- The invoice must show that the recipient is officially enrolled at the institution.
- If the scholarship recipient does not enroll at an eligible educational institution within two years, the scholarship award will expire.
- If the recipient chooses to defer enrollment, they must notify New Prague Utilities immediately.