



## **KIITA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Kiita Foundation Scholarship Fund was established at Whitefish Community Foundation to help financially independent students earn a bachelor's degree. Scholarships of up to \$10,000 will be awarded annually to highly motivated students 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 March 31, 2026 at 11:59 MDT. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.** Awards will be announced in May, 2026.

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>

Successful candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

#### **1. Applicant criteria:**

- Applicant must be a graduating senior from a public high school in Flathead County, Montana.
- Applicant must be unable to rely on their family to help pay for college expenses.
- Applicant must show evidence of being capable of academic success in college. Minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 is preferred.
- 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.

2. The application will include:

- One letter of recommendation uploaded by a current or former teacher, coach, or counselor written in the academic 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 academic 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. This scholarship is for students who cannot rely on their family to help pay for college. Please explain why you need the assistance of this scholarship.
  - ii. Please describe any obstacles in your path to high school graduation and how you have overcome them.
  - iii. Please describe why you are interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree and what you believe you are capable of achieving once you have earned your degree. You may explain this in terms of your life goals, career goals, and/or goals within your community.
  - iv. Describe volunteer activities in which you have chosen to participate, why you chose those particular volunteer activities, and how those experiences have affected your life.

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