



Zia Merit Scholarships 2024

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be received by Zia Credit Union or postmarked by **March 15, 2024**.

Zia Credit Union Scholarship Committee
Attn: Jennifer Aylmer
1001 Central Avenue Los Alamos, NM 87544

Individual items or faxed applications WILL NOT be accepted. All required items must be submitted as one package. Only one submission per person will be accepted. Any submission that does not meet the requirements will be automatically disqualified.

Awards will be presented to the selected students during the awards presentation ceremony at your respective school. A check will be deposited into your Zia Credit Union account upon proof of college acceptance from an institution of higher education. Proof of acceptance must be received no later than **September 1, 2024**.

Did you remember to include all of the following?

- High school transcript (must include the two most recent years with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4-point scale or equivalent).
- Two signed letters of recommendation.
Note: Letters from relatives or friends will not be accepted.
- Wallet-sized photo to be used in the event of publication purposes only. If you do submit a photo, the Photo Consent Form must be signed and included in your packet.
Note: Photos will not be returned.
- Typed essay, containing a minimum of 350 words and a maximum of 650 words, addressing and supporting your achievements through your high school career.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Zia Credit Union Merit Scholarships were created in 2003 to provide educational financial support to members of Zia Credit Union who are graduating Northern New Mexico high school seniors and are pursuing their education in a college, university or vocational school program.

VALUE OF AWARDS

Each scholarship's discretionary amount is determined by the Zia Credit Union Scholarship Committee.

FOUNDATION OF AWARDS (Choose 1 category)

Scholarship awards are based on the student's essay, which should emphasize the student's accomplishments in their high school career. Also, include work experience, volunteer work or any extracurricular activities you are involved in. Tell us a little about your major, include your goals for yourself and if you are planning on giving back to the community after you graduate. There are three different awards to choose from:

Academic

To select the Academic award, the student should have a strong GPA and tendency to excel in academics in general. College prep courses, AP classes, community or school-wide activities, and any academic recognition or awards received while in high school should also be included.

Leadership

To select the Leadership award, the student should have experience in leadership activities, for example: Class Treasurer, or other high school leadership responsibilities, such as Squad Leader of a sports team or other group. Community volunteer work and college goals in the student's chosen field should also be included.

Special Achievement

To select the Special Achievement award, or "Overcoming a Barrier" award, the student should include details of anything that could have prevented them from graduating from high school, for example, recovering from substance abuse, teen parenting, overcoming previous poor academic performance, attitude or behavioral issues, or difficult circumstances at home that the student overcame.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, the student MUST be a member of Zia Credit Union with their own account prior to the application deadline. The application must also be a high school senior, homeschool student or GED student.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete the application. Please only select the one category that best fits you.
2. Attach a high school transcript (must include the two most recent years with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4-point scale or equivalent).
3. Submit two signed letters of recommendation (letters from relatives or friends will not be accepted and will cause the application to be disqualified).
4. Submit a wallet-sized photo (for publications only). The Photo Consent Form must be signed and included.
5. Submit a typed essay (minimum of 350 words/maximum 650 words) addressing and supporting the achievements throughout your high school career, mentioning the subjects we have listed.

If you have any questions, contact **Jennifer Aylmer** at 505-663-3572 or **Valerie Martinez** at 505-663-3594.