



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: _____

Name of Program: _____

Entry Date of Program: _____

CHECKLIST

- Application Form and Signed Declaration
- Written Essay
- Two Letters of Reference
- List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements.
- Confirmation of Enrollment
- Graduation Picture

Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for a scholarship award.

The personal information on this form is being collected for the purpose of determining eligibility of an applicant to receive a scholarship. This information is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and may become public information once it is submitted to Council during a Council meeting. Questions regarding the collection of this information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at 403-443-5541.



Scholarship Award 2024 Application Form POLICY #15-5

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read and understand the instructions, and DECLARE THAT:

- All information provided is true and complete and I understand it is subject to audit.
- I will meet any eligibility requirements and obligations of the scholarship as stated in Kneehill County Policy #15-5.
- I will be a full-time student at the institution named for the period stated.
- I will immediately notify Kneehill County in writing if I withdraw from full-time studies before completing one semester of studies.
- I am a rural resident of Kneehill County.

I understand and agree that:

- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, I may be requested to attend a recognition ceremony to be publically recognized.
- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, my name and photo may be published in the local newspaper, Kneehill County website and in other Kneehill County Communications.
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Date

Kneehill County

May 16, 2024

Scholarship Essay

I believe that youth tend to be undermined within society when it comes to decision-making. Though it is a scientifically known fact that the brains of human beings do not fully develop until the age of twenty-five, according to the University of Rochester Medical Centre. Youth are capable of forming their own thoughts, opinions, and desires and with that, it is essential to remember that the younger generations are the future so to allow the future influential citizens to partake in decision-making while still making an impact on society itself would be beneficial to any sort of contribution.

Why would it be important for youth to contribute to their community and how impactful or beneficial would it be to allow such a thing? Well, to that I answer positive as well as proactive youth development. Youth tend to grow a sense of confidence and responsibility while aiding those around them and this will create a sufficient impact on those individuals who are able to take any skills obtained and in turn, apply them to their daily lives or assist them within their own community. Obstacles are often faced as youth find their way to individuality, and these obstacles are (but not limited to) a lack of experience, peer pressure, stress, and the inability to be heard. While allowing the youth to not only advocate for themselves but also consider the needs and wants of others, and earn a sense of commitment. All of these characteristics are what is essential for an individual to become a functional contributor to society and to not only obtain personal growth but also personal values or goals.

To promote a healthy and welcoming environment for our youth of today would be to seek and listen most importantly. Youth often feel misrepresented, not heard, or just ignored. Establishing or practicing *active* listening would benefit both the youth and the adults in achieving a balanced domain. To also attain more younger people within our community would make it appealing to that group of individuals and this can be reached by directly asking the youth group what would appeal to them directly, rather than assuming or guessing what it may be that would draw them in. Another way to engage the youth would be to involve a diverse range of people- this can include individuals of different ages, races, skill sets, and different interests/ hobbies.

The stigma that the youth of our society cannot or do not contribute to society has been engraved within our culture and we, as a community, must set a goal that shall overcome that stigma. In Kneehill County I have seen a multitude of different ages with such a wide range of skills that would benefit our rural community, and provide a sustainable work ethic while doing so. To promote a healthy and balanced environment when it comes to propositions being projected by adults and youth, I would continue to advocate for the thoughts, opinions, and ideas of the youth and to not only take them into consideration but also put their suggestions into action thus allowing the youth of our community to be heard, gain or grow a sense of responsibility, all while providing the opportunity to allow the youth to assert themselves in this flourishing community.

Work Cited:

Fetterman, Anne. 2024 University of Rochester Medical Center Rochester, NY. *Understanding the Teen Brain*.

Health Encyclopedia.

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=1&ContentID=3051>

Kneehill County

May 16, 2024

List of Contributions

To provide some insight, I would like to declare that I have been a member of Kneehill County since January of 2023. Before this, I had been living in Airdrie, Alberta for the entirety of my life where I attended and graduated high school. I moved to this rural community in hopes of a fresh start and a new beginning. Since then, I have realized what I have been missing out on. I have met so many indescribably remarkable individuals. I have developed a new definition of what a community means and how it operates.

Since I moved here, I have joined the Torrington Fire Department as a volunteer to contribute to our community. Since joining, I have attended the training and completed any courses that have been presented to expand my knowledge and skill set. I have attended numerous medical calls, and now I am in the process of enriching my skills and knowledge of the firefighting aspects of the department. I have been an active member since April of 2023 while remaining dedicated since. In May of 2023, I got hired to be an employee for Kneehill County and this year I have decided to come back as a returning mowing technician. I have thoroughly enjoyed being an employee of the county while working alongside very knowledgeable peers. Through this employment, I have contributed to the beautification of the county and all the county-owned sites while doing so in a prideful manner.

Currently, I am a first-year student at Red Deer Polytechnic majoring in the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology where I plan on completing my bachelor's degree, and then moving toward achieving my Master's degree elsewhere. I am striving to become a criminal youth psychologist or counsellor where I want to achieve the rehabilitation of the youth within our society and provide proactive guidance in their lives and their futures ahead of them.

Though what is to follow is not my direct contribution to Kneehill County itself, I do believe it does reflect on my character. While being a resident of Airdrie, I received the District Commander's Certificate of Appreciation as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Award for the recognition of saving the life of a young child found alone outside during a cold winter morning while attending to her basic needs such as feeding, changing, and

clothing the child as well as making sure there were no major injuries on the child while in the hands of my care until the RCMP and Child Protective Services were able to take the child into their own hands.

I do want to state that although I have been a resident of Kneehill County for a short while, I do want to emphasize that I want to remain a resident here while growing my personal and professional relationships and establishing more of myself within the contribution of the positive growth of this community.

To sum up my contributions:

- An active volunteer member of the Torrington Fire Department
- Employee as Mowing Technician for Kneehill County



May 16, 2024

has been an active member of our Torrington Fire Department since April of 2023. She has proven herself to be a hard-working and committed member of the department. She has been primarily responding to medical calls and is being introduced to more fire calls as she gains skills with the training time at the department level.

has proven herself to be a confident member of the department who takes on challenges when presented to her. She attends training when she is home and tries to make every call that she can when not away for her studies or at work. She commits to her community and makes a difference when she assists those who need help on their worst day.

I support application for the Kneehill County Scholarship as she continues her studies in the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Red Deer Polytechnic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Marsellus".

Dan Marsellus
Rural Fire Chief
Kneehill County Fire Services

April 30, 2024

RE: Letter of Recommendation for

To The Kneehill County Scholarship Committee,

I am pleased to offer my recommendation of _____ for the 2024 Student Scholarship. _____ is currently joining us for her second season as a Mowing Technician in the Parks & Ag Services Department at Kneehill County.

Her bright personality and dedicated work ethic are greatly appreciated both on the Mowing team as well as to the whole department. Through her work she has demonstrated great care for the continuing upkeep and beautification of the communities, cemeteries, and parks within Kneehill County.

I have also had the privilege to witness, through conversation and observation, _____ care and compassion for people and community in both her volunteer work with the Torrington Fire Department and her schooling pursuit in psychology.

For these reasons I believe _____ would be a deserving recipient of the 2024 Kneehill County Student Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Fallon Sherlock
Manager of Parks & Ag Services
Kneehill County



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

School Graduated From: St. Paul's Academy

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Red Deer Polytechnic

Name of Program: Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences

Entry Date of Program: Sept 1, 2024

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form and Signed Declaration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of Enrollment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written Essay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduation Picture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two Letters of Reference | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements. | |

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Version 2024



Scholarship Award 2024 Application Form POLICY #15-5

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Signature of Applicant

_____ 2024 - 06 - 09 _____
Date

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A Discussion on Youth Involvement in Local Government

Encouraging youth to participate in local or county government is hard, but extremely important. Along with the practical and emotional barriers young people face when trying to involve themselves in government, a lack of awareness and interest prevents further involvement. By making direct decisions that combat the significant barriers that youth face when it comes to public engagement, such as apathy, a lack of awareness, and practical and emotional obstacles, local governments can work toward a united future where young people are invested and involved in community and regional government.

Perhaps the largest struggle that county decision-makers face when trying to encourage youth involvement is a simple lack of interest. Those determined to involve themselves in civil and political matters will doubtlessly find a way despite many hurdles, but a lack of physical barriers make no difference to those who have no interest in participating. Therefore, before more practical barriers must be addressed, one must first spark interest. Many young people are busy, especially in high school, and do not want to occupy their free time with things they don't think affect them or things that are not "fun". One way to combat this is to foster awareness regarding the role that county and local governments fill; share information as to the decisions that directly affect young people, and speak about upcoming issues and events. This will emphasize the power governing bodies have and show that local governments tackle difficult and important questions. Provide specific examples of opportunities for participation. Another way to encourage youths to want to participate is through school programs and opportunities. Not only can high school billboards and presentations spread awareness of opportunities, but if governing bodies were able to integrate themselves into school curriculum, even in an optional capacity, youth interest and participation would increase. For example, if by attending a particular number of community or governing meetings, a student could earn extra credit in a particular course, such as Social Studies or CALM. Schools could also require a half-day field trip to county events where presentations could be made to explain to youths the importance of local government and community participation. These ideas will require a lot of work, but if local governments wants to see significant increases in youth interest, substantial changes are required. Youths are also shaped in large part by their parents, and by increasing general interest and involvement from older adults, youth participation will also grow. Through dynamic changes and insightful initiatives, regional governments can tackle the largest barrier prohibiting youth involvement, apathy.

The second largest barrier that prevents greater youth involvement is a lack of awareness. Many young people are simply unaware of the opportunities available to them. Not only can they be ignorant of the general opportunities provided to the public, but they can also feel that the offered opportunities are not intended for them. Thankfully, this can be remedied easily through physical and digital announcements detailing specific open meetings and community gatherings as well as clearly stating the topics of discussion and the inclusive invitation. In order to attract young people, the information needs to be practical and specific, so no further research is required. Pamphlets could be placed in local spaces, such as at grocery stores, community centers, and schools. Online posts both to county and community websites and social media accounts can spread the word, especially in this digital age. There are a

multitude of ways to spread awareness about opportunities for young people, and this barrier is easily overcome with thoughtful and organized efforts.

In addition to these barriers, regional governments need to address the practical obstacles that young people face. Often much of the infrastructure surrounding administrative processes is inaccessible for youths whose time is limited and often highly regulated. To promote accessibility, meetings should occur outside of regular school hours and be in central locations so driving time is minimized. The public should have easy access to previous meeting minutes. Online polls and discussion forums can also provide a low effort way to voice one's thoughts and opinions. By implementing changes to lower the barriers that young people face, interested young adults will be enabled to participate in local government.

Finally, governing bodies need to address the emotional and psychological barriers. Many young people do not feel their input is valued outside of student specific roles, such as student president. The limited power these positions often hold can discourage students from participation. Often youth believe they are not heard or respected when reaching into more adult-majority organizations. They might also feel inexperienced and naive when voicing their opinions to those long involved in government. However, young people can offer new perspectives and enthusiasm. Having youth involvement in government not only assures experienced leaders in the future, but it also allows the government to make well informed decisions that affect the lives of all their residents. Governing organizations need to encourage these voices and avoid discouraging those who are less experienced. Practically, this means that young voices should be taken seriously at community meetings and that mistakes should be viewed as learning and teaching opportunities rather than used to put down the inexperienced. Although sociological and emotional barriers can be difficult to contend with, taking practical steps guarantees that everyone feels valued, and ensures that local governments can empower youths.

By facing these struggles head-on young people can be inspired, informed, enabled, and empowered to participate in local government, thus impacting the decisions that affect them and preparing them for future leadership roles in their communities. When it comes to engagement in local governance, the youth of today face many barriers, but through thoughtful and decisive action, these barriers can be overcome.

Kneehill County Scholarship Award

Lifeguard

I am employed as a Lifeguard by the Town of Three Hills and I work part time at the Three Hills Aquatic Center. As a Lifeguard, I interact with the public, explain and enforce safety and pool rules, maintain our pool through cleaning and safety checks, lead and support less experienced lifeguards, and prepare for and address First Aid emergencies. My job provides me with the opportunity to model responsible behavior around and in water, and to encourage others to do the same.

Grades through High School

During my grade 12 year I achieved honor roll in 4 core subjects, English Language Arts 30-1, Social Studies 30-1, Mathematics 30-1, and Biology 30. Some of the more specific options I took during high school were Physical Education 20 (100%), "People, Culture & Wildlife Heritage" (100%), Special projects (100%), Workplace Safety Systems (98%) and even did Introduction to Medical Terminology through Bow Vally Collage.

Comfort Care Aid

During Covid -19 I worked as a Comfort Care Aid in the Long Term Care Center of my local Three Hills hospital. As a Comfort Care Aid, I assisted medical staff in daily practical tasks, such as answering bells, hand feeding meals, serving snacks, and making beds. I also worked to support the social and emotional needs of the residents during this difficult time through playing checkers, facilitating group activities, taking long walks, chatting with, and reading to residents.

Swimming Instructor

I am certified as a Water Safety Instructor (and Lifesaving Society Instructor), and I teach swimming lessons at the Three Hills Aquatic Center. I really love teaching! I get to help kids get comfortable in water, learn and improve skills through practice and instruction, organize my lessons and direct my students, and see kids grow in confidence and perfect skills. I teach important safety lessons and skills such as "everyone should wear a lifejacket on a boat", and "how to administer back blows and J-thrusts". I especially enjoy helping those with physical and mental disabilities succeed in the water.

4-H

I was a member of my local 4-H club for two years. Through 4-H, I raised and actioned off two lambs and even won Grand Champion Lamb my second year. Along with caring for and preparing my animals for the show day, I also tracked their eating habits, and kept detailed financial records throughout the year. I also participated in public speaking events, which involved both a written, and an impromptu speech.

Pioneer Ranch Camp (Lifeguard and Canoe Instructor)

Over the past two summers have worked as a Lifeguard at Pioneer Ranch Camp. Along with undertaking traditional lifeguarding tasks, such as running the outdoor pool and leading the campers in games and pool related activities, I also instruct canoeing. Camp always pushes me out of my comfort zone, and I enjoy the opportunity to try new things, tackle tricky problems, and adapt to all the curveballs. I also enjoy working with a larger team of staff and volunteers, as well as managing the pool on my own, as I'm the sole lifeguard.

Camp Little Red

After attending Camp Little Red as a child, I decided to volunteer in the kitchen. While working there I prepared food for over a hundred campers and staff. I worked for several weeks over two summers, and I gained experience with prepping and planning meals for large groups as well as assisting in camp activities such as overseeing arts and crafts, assistant cabin leading, and interacting with children. I worked with a team of seven other kitchen assistants under the direction of two head cooks.

Violin

After inheriting a violin from my great Aunt Nettie I have endeavored to learn how to play. Although I taught myself to play the ukulele several years ago, I have always desired to learn how to play the violin; my favorite instrument. I have arranged to take weekly lessons and I am learning the proper techniques as well as how to read notes and other aspects of music theory. Since I have only recently begun, I have yet to master the violin, but I hope to continue this learning journey long into the future.

Dance

I have participated in dance for most of my life. Although I started later than my peers, I eventually worked my way up to dancing with the senior dancers in my dance group, and I even danced a solo in our annual performance. I primarily participated in lyrical but I also practiced ballet. I love the way dance, especially lyrical, allows you to express yourself and share a story with others.

Art

I have always love creating art. During high school I explored different forms and mediums of expression. I especially enjoy watercolor painting, although I also dabble in using graphite, charcoal, and acrylic. I love the way a picture can speak a thousand words. Recently, I have begun exploring digital art, in particular, stop motion animation. Through online research I have begun studying the twelve principals of animation, as well as concepts such as the use of shape theory in character design.

June 8, 2024

Kneehill County Scholarship Program

To Whomever It May Concern,

I am writing today to recommend _____ for the Kneehill County Scholarship. I have known _____ for over a decade, during which time I have witnessed her caring personality, outstanding character, and commitment to personal growth. Time and time again I have seen these three characteristics positively impact those around her and drive her participation both in her school community and in the Kneehill community. She is a natural leader and role model for those around her.

During COVID, _____ served as a comfort care aid in the Three Hills Hospital. Her tasks included answering calls from the long term care residents, serving snacks and meals and tidying rooms. However, _____ went above and beyond her job description by taking time to listen to the residents, play board or card games with them, and foster a sense of community within the long term care unit. Her caring personality was especially appreciated during this time, as not many of the residents could see their families or loved ones. Her ability to connect with the residents and provide for both their physical and emotional needs shows her dedication to fostering community and care for those who are most vulnerable.

In addition to her caring personality, _____ also exemplifies admirable character. Throughout her time in high school, _____ achieved high grades, showing dedication and commitment to her future, while inspiring others to do the same. In addition, _____ is a

lifeguard both at the Three Hills Aquatic Centre and Pioneer Ranch Camp. She ensures that everyone is following the rules and ensures safety for the patrons.

With her character comes a dedication to personal growth. In her extracurricular activities, she pushes herself to achieve. She experiments with different mediums of art and grows her ability to draw and paint using different methods and techniques. In addition, during her time in dance, she pushed herself to try different forms of dance and excelled in them. Most recently, she has begun to learn the violin, a very demanding instrument that requires finesse and practice to perform.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. Should you have any other questions or require further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. I cannot say enough good things about her and believe that her contribution to Kneehill County will be invaluable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Dau'. The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Anna Dau

President, Student's Association of Olds College

Vice Chair, Alberta Student's Executive Council

TO: Selection Committee (Kneehill County)

SUBJECT: Reference Letter for
Leuf

DATE: June 5, 2024

I have had the privilege of knowing _____ for the past 15 years.

_____ is a young woman who consistently demonstrates kindness, gentleness and a good work ethic. _____ graciousness and compassion were a great service to the seniors she served when she worked as a Comfort Care Aid in our local hospital.

As long as I have known her, _____ has demonstrated responsibility and maturity as she cared for younger siblings. She continues to show these qualities as she works with many children and young adults in her position at the Three Hills Aquatic Center.

_____ has demonstrated her dependability in many ways. I have had the pleasure of being her teacher and I could always count on _____ to do what she had been asked to. She also shows that she is dependable in her care for animals, particularly her 4-H lambs. _____ is trustworthy and responsible in her work at summer camp.

_____ will bring value to the places where she studies, works and lives through her hard work, kindness and compassion.

I think _____ would be an excellent candidate to receive the Kneehill County Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Valerie Leuf

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Mount Royal University

Name of Program: Bachelor of Business Administration

Entry Date of Program: Nov 26, 2023 classes start - Sept 5, 2024

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form and Signed Declaration | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of Enrollment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Written Essay | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Picture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Letters of Reference | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements. | |

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Scholarship Award
 2024 Application Form
 POLICY #15-5

Applicant #3

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read and understand the instructions, and DECLARE THAT:

- All information provided is true and complete and I understand it is subject to audit.
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- I am a rural resident of Kneehill County.

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- Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for Scholarship award.

June 27, 2024

Signature of Applicant

Date

Name of institution you plan on attending: _____
 Name of Program: _____
 Entry Date of Program: _____

CHECK LIST

- Application Form and Signed Declaration
- Written Essay
- Two Letters of Reference
- List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements.
- Confirmation of Enrollment
- Graduation Picture

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Kneehill County Scholarship 2024

In an ever-changing society, youth are increasingly affected by various government policies. For example, Alberta's recent mandate to restrict cellular device usage in classrooms starting Fall 2024. Although this policy may not seem significant to many students, it ultimately affects them, highlighting the irony that youth are impacted by rules in which they have limited to no say. Globally, the voting age for having a political voice is typically 18 years old or the age of majority. While this rule ensures that political decisions are made by informed adults, it's crucial to recognize that policies affecting youth demand their active involvement. In fact, as seen in Alberta with these new cell phone policies, children younger than 18 may have the most important voice worth listening to. So, how can a local government involve youth in important decisions that may greatly impact them?

The issue begins with three simple points: youth have a lack of awareness and interest, limited information, and face structural barriers. But what does this really mean? When analyzing these points collectively, the problem arises that children are simply not provided with the necessary information involved in decision-making, and their voices are left behind. It is seen time and time again that youth are excluded from decision-making processes, as evidenced by the voting age requirement in Alberta. Consequently, the government tries to implement policies they believe are in the best interest of youth with little feedback from the youth themselves. Furthermore, many youths can be intimidated by the decision-making process. With wordy, formal

documents, youth may overlook new policies as they do not understand how they may affect them. This ties back to the idea of limited access to information. Although all the information about a given policy may be available, it is not easily accessible or understandable to the younger generation, so they choose not to get involved. Overall, there are several key barriers that youth face regarding decisions and public engagement; however, there are many opportunities the county can take advantage of to prevent this from happening.

It goes without saying that a huge technological advancement right now is social media. With platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter dominating the online space, many younger people spend extensive amounts of time engaging with content on these platforms. Kneehill County could start by engaging youth where they are actively spending a lot of time. From simple 20-second videos to various Instagram posts, the county could target the younger generation by educating them on new ideas that will affect them and how they can get involved. Building off a new online following, the county could use these platforms to market various information workshops where youth can interact with individuals making the decisions. A space like this could promote growth among younger people, allowing them to ask questions and get involved in the decision-making process in real time. By using social media, the county will be able to involve youth much more than before by simply engaging them in new ideas, whether at home or at real-life events.

Getting youth involved at the base level is crucial in providing them access to the world of local government, but the county can go even further by keeping teens involved in the future. By implementing programs such as youth organizations, youth can

participate in the decision-making process firsthand. Many schools have similar programs, such as student councils, which allow students to be leaders and organize events. Individuals with these interests may also find a liking for a county youth council that allows them to get involved in their local government. Whether this involves helping to organize county events or forming a panel of youth to provide input on various topics, an organization like this can be the perfect place for the younger generation to start and potentially join county boards in the future.

Although there are barriers that teens face when it comes to being involved in local government, there are ultimately actions that can be taken to encourage their involvement. By utilizing social media to promote Kneehill County's regular operations and creating junior councils to offer direct involvement in decision-making processes, these initiatives are crucial in fostering a sense of civic responsibility among younger generations. By implementing these strategies, Kneehill County will not only enhance youth participation today but also inspire future leaders who are informed and invested in shaping their community's future.

Community Involvement

Throughout my high school years, I have actively contributed to my school and community through various volunteer and leadership roles. I run the Junior Reds program at my school, where I teach elementary students basketball, and I have been a dedicated member of the student council as a social community member in 2021 and the Acme Student Association Treasurer from 2022-2024. As part of my leadership activities, I participate in the Challenger events with my baseball team, ensuring that players with developmental difficulties enjoy fun evenings of baseball. Challenger baseball has provided me with the opportunity to work with many great kids allowing me to share my love for baseball with them. I also volunteer for Royal Purple and the Acme United Church in various activities such as the Acme Fall supper and Royal Purple Lunches. In recognition of my athletic abilities, I was named the most valuable basketball player at Acme High School in 2024. I play baseball with the Red Deer Braves Elite league team and have committed to playing baseball next year with the U of C Dinos while pursuing a business degree. Additionally, I took all the required courses to become a certified lifeguard and now work at Acme Pool. These experiences paired with my 4 year membership of the Kneehill 4-H Multi Club (2016-2020) have allowed me to develop leadership skills, public speaking skills, make meaningful contributions to my community, and achieve personal success.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend _____ for your esteemed scholarship program. I have had the honour of knowing _____ for the past 17 years. In fact, I met him for the first time when he was only days old. I then had the privilege of teaching him in both elementary and junior high at Dr. Elliott School in Linden, Alberta. I am confident that he is an outstanding candidate who deserves strong consideration for your scholarship.

_____ not only had an exemplary academic record in my class, but he also has remarkable character, leadership, public speaking skills, and dedication to both his academic and extracurricular pursuits.

In the classroom, _____ consistently exhibited a strong work ethic and an eagerness to learn. His ability to grasp complex concepts, engage in critical thinking, and articulate his thoughts effectively set him apart as a standout student. Every assignment he handed in was remarkable and was used as an exemplar for the next year's students.

Beyond the classroom, _____ is a talented athlete who excels in basketball and baseball. His dedication to sports is not only evident in his skill level, but also in his leadership on and off the field. _____ demonstrates resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship, making him a valuable asset to any team.

Equally impressive is _____ commitment to community service. He consistently volunteers his time and talents to initiatives such as the Acme Jr Reds (elementary team) as a basketball coach after school. He coached students with special needs and disabilities last summer with the St. Albert Cardinals and introduced them to the game of baseball. He will continue to help special needs students this spring and summer with the Red Deer Braves baseball team. He also served on the Acme Students' Association for the past three years as a representative and treasurer. His dedication to

making a positive impact in the community reflects his values and character.

ability to balance academic excellence, athletic achievement, and community involvement showcases his well-rounded nature and speaks to his potential for future success. I am confident that the scholarship support you provide will be an investment in a young leader with the drive, determination, and integrity to make a significant impact on both his academic journey and the community at large.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Niki Cameron, B.A., M.A., B.Ed.
Teacher
Dr. Elliott School



Acme School: 403 546 3845
Fax: 403 546 2248
Dr. Elliott School: 403 546 3863

ACME SCHOOL & DR. ELLIOTT SCHOOL

Mrs. Cathy Price, Teacher

March 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honour to recommend _____ for your consideration as a reliable and talented individual. Over the past twelve years, I have had the privilege of working with _____ in his capacity as a student of Dr. Elliott and Acme Schools and as a member of the Alberta 4-H Program.

Leadership is one quality that I strongly associate with _____. He is someone that our schools have relied on time and again during school-wide events and activities. _____ is often called upon to demonstrate leadership and set a positive example for the entire student body, whether through athletics, student leadership, or community engagement. Throughout high school, _____ was involved in the Acme Students' Association. He was elected by the student body in Grade 10 to be a student representative and in Grades 11 and 12 to be the school treasurer. During the 2022-2023 school year, he managed a student-led fundraising campaign in support of the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Campaign which raised nearly \$3000.00. He also was a key player every year in leading several successful fundraising drives for local food banks. _____ is greatly appreciated by staff, students, and the community at large for the reliable and steady leadership he provides.

_____ has an incredible work ethic. He is composed and quietly confident, holding a high personal standard for himself in his pursuit of excellence. His work ethic comes across in his academic and athletic successes as he is consistently on honour roll and has won numerous awards for his accomplishments in various sports. In 2023, _____ was the Earned Run Average leader in the Baseball Alberta Elite League in his role of starting pitcher for the St. Albert Cardinals. This accomplishment is testament to the hours and hours _____ commits to team practices and individual training sessions behind the scenes.

In addition, _____ was actively involved in the Alberta 4-H Program from 2016 - 2020 as a member of the Kneehill Multi club in the Kneehill 4-H District. As a member of this club, _____ had great success in public speaking advancing beyond the club level each year. As well, _____ completed a variety of interesting projects exploring 4-H and presenting his learnings at Achievement Day. _____ is a confident and comfortable presenter, a skill he developed through his time as a 4-H member.

_____ is an intelligent, reliable, and driven individual. I give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Cathy Price
Career Practitioner and Teacher
Alberta 4-H Program Volunteer



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

Applicant #4

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: SAIT

Name of Program: Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant

Entry Date of Program: September 2024

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Form and Signed Declaration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of Enrollment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written Essay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduation Picture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two Letters of Reference | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements. | |

Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for a scholarship award.

The personal information on this form is being collected for the purpose of determining eligibility of an applicant to receive a scholarship. This information is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and may become public information once it is submitted to Council during a Council meeting. Questions regarding the collection of this information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at 403-443-5541.

Version 2024



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

Applicant #4


DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read and understand the instructions, and DECLARE THAT:

- All information provided is true and complete and I understand it is subject to audit.
- I will meet any eligibility requirements and obligations of the scholarship as stated in Kneehill County Policy #15-5.
- I will be a full-time student at the institution named for the period stated.
- I will immediately notify Kneehill County in writing if I withdraw from full-time studies before completing one semester of studies.
- I am a rural resident of Kneehill County.

I understand and agree that:

- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, I may be requested to attend a recognition ceremony to be publically recognized.
- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, my name and photo may be published in the local newspaper, Kneehill County website and in other Kneehill County Communications.
- Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for Scholarship award.

 Signature of Applicant

Date

June 28 / 2024

2024 Kneehill County Scholarship Award

“What are the challenges and opportunities for youth participation in County decisions and public engagements. What barriers do young people face, and how can these obstacles be addressed to enhance their involvement”

My name is _____ and I am a third generation Kneehill County resident. I was born and raised on a farm just west of Three Hills. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write about Kneehill County; and valuing the opinions of the youth and giving the chance to receive a scholarship. One of the biggest challenges with opportunities of youth participating would be lack of knowledge about the county and the role that they play. **With better education the county can create more opportunities for collaboration and a better sense of community within kneehill county.**

Growing up I didn't know much about the county, I was never heavily involved in 4H due to my commitment to sports and other activities. I have participated in highway clean up over the years but that would be the extent of my involvement. One of the biggest barriers would be the lack of education of how youth can be involved and how their voices can be heard. Something that could work really well would be to have some representatives come to schools and help students form around the county learn and understand more about the county we live in. Having youth ambassadors involved in both the schools and the county would make a huge difference in the knowledge of students. One of the barriers that I have seen is the lack of presence the county has in the schools. Before this essay I did not know that my voice as a youth born and raised in kneehill county mattered. I appreciate you giving me the opportunity to have my voice heard.

Another barrier would be the pull for youth to join urban communities. Which is seen more and more as youth move out of rural settings for more education and work; oftentimes leading them to not return. One of the things that will draw our youth to return to rural settings to live, work, and

raise their families would be to create a very strong sense of community. To support this argument would be my personal experience this year. This year was particularly challenging for me as we did not have the numbers to have a Sr high girls basketball team at Prairie Christian Academy. I have been involved with sports all my life and have never faced the reality that I would not be able to play until this year. It made me extremely proud to be a part of this community when we had people reach out to us from all over the county ensuring us that we would find a place to play. We had people who are involved in the Three Hills school, Acme school and the Trochu school reach out and offer us help and support. The Trochu school so graciously stepped up and opened their gym, team, time and coaching to us. This act of kindness made a huge impact on me personally through the kindness shown to me and the fact that I am a part of a greater community, which is Kneehill county.

It took me to my grade 12 year and not having a basketball team for me to see the importance of the greater community we have here. The team that was once my rivals quickly became my beloved teammates and some of my best friends. This speaks volumes to the wonderful community we have and how being involved makes a massive difference. This community in Kneehill County is where I want to return to as an adult, to live, to work, and to raise my family.

It would be so valuable if Kneehill County could create events, or opportunities for the youth to get involved with other towns and build these same types of connections. If we can foster these relationships within the greater Kneehill county, it will help develop a stronger sense of community and will be a strong draw for our youth to return and live in Kneehill County.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to write this essay, I appreciate that you value my input. I have loved growing up in Kneehill County, and I hope to one day give my kids the same opportunity as well.

2024 Scholarships Accomplishments

- Grade 12 Honor Roll
- Prairie Christian Academy Sr High Athlete of the Year
- Life Saving CPR Instructor/examiner
- Lifesaving instructor/examiner
- Swim instructor examiner
- Exam Standard Clinic
- National Lifeguard
- Bronze cross
- Bronze Medallion
- Lifesaving CPR & AED
- Full time employee at Trochu Community Pool
- Combine operator
- SR high volleyball christian character
- Team captain of Trochu Valley School SR girls basketball team
- Sunday school teacher at Grace Bible Fellowship

Keely Nigh

June 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly recommend _____ for the scholarship she is applying for. I have had the pleasure of knowing _____ for the last 9 years through teaching, coaching and a friend. During this time she has consistently impressed me with her exceptional qualities and dedication.

_____ is a remarkably hard-working individual who approaches every task with diligence and commitment. Throughout our interactions, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic, often going above and beyond what is expected.

One of _____'s standout attributes is her ability to work effectively in a team setting. She is a natural team player, always willing to collaborate with others and contribute positively to group dynamics. Her communication skills are excellent, which allows her to build strong relationships with the peers and adults she interacts with.

I have also found _____ to be extremely responsible and reliable. She takes initiative in her work and can be trusted to deliver great results. Her organizational skills ensure that tasks are completed efficiently.

_____ possesses a warm and relational personality that makes her a pleasure to work with. She shows genuine care and concern for others, creating a supportive environment wherever she goes. Her ability to connect with people makes her a valuable asset to any community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend _____ for the scholarship. Her combination of hard work, teamwork, responsibility, and relational skills makes her an ideal candidate who will undoubtedly excel with whatever is set before her. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Keely Nigh

June 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this character reference for _____ I have known _____ for 7 years. She attends the school that I work at and she is a dear friend of my daughter.

_____ is one of the most loving, caring, honest and loyal people I have had the pleasure of knowing! She never misses an opportunity to help others. You can always count on _____ to show up and pitch in and have a positive attitude while doing so! She keeps a cool head in stressful situations, showing a high level of maturity for her age. _____ always treats others with courtesy and respect.

_____ has been highly involved in sports at PCA. Her peers view her as an excellent team mate, and a responsible and dedicated leader! _____ has a strong sense of right and wrong and will take a stand for what she believes in. It is young ladies like _____ who give me hope for the future!

Please feel free to contact me at _____

Sincerely,

Trisha Rector
Librarian/DLP Supervisor
Prairie Christian Academy

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter as a reference for . We have known for approximately 8 years and she has demonstrated herself to be a strong, joyful, helpful, encouraging person to all around her. Our family adopted 3 children eight years ago and it was a privilege to have be one of the trusted people to provide child care in our home when the need arose. We have seen her demonstrate diligence, kindness, warmth, and enthusiasm as she has been involved with our family.

We have also witnessed her volunteering in Grace Bible Fellowship of Three Hills as she worked in Sunday School and youth programs. We have been encouraged with her willingness to joyfully give of herself and her time. s a stand out, integral part of every community we have seen her in. It would be an encouragement to see such a fine young person be supported by our community!



Rob Munchinsky

Three Hills Alberta



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: _____

Name of Program: _____

Entry Date of Program: _____

CHECKLIST

- Application Form and Signed Declaration
- Written Essay
- Two Letters of Reference
- List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements.
- Confirmation of Enrollment
- Graduation Picture

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Scholarship Award 2024 Application Form

POLICY #15-5

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read and understand the instructions, and DECLARE THAT:

- All information provided is true and complete and I understand it is subject to audit.
- I will meet any eligibility requirements and obligations of the scholarship as stated in Kneehill County Policy #15-5.
- I will be a full-time student at the institution named for the period stated.
- I will immediately notify Kneehill County in writing if I withdraw from full-time studies before completing one semester of studies.
- I am a rural resident of Kneehill County.

I understand and agree that:

- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, I may be requested to attend a recognition ceremony to be publically recognized.
- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, my name and photo may be published in the local newspaper, Kneehill County website and in other Kneehill County Communications.
- Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for Scholarship award.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Kneehill County - 2024 Scholarship Application Essay

Q: “What are the challenges and opportunities for youth participation in County decisions and public engagements? What barriers do young people face, and how can these obstacles be addressed to enhance their involvement?”

Both youth leadership and civic activism doubtlessly produce positive youth development, though, modern democracies have received lower voter participation from young people. Young people report little patience for decision-making processes, processes that seem to ignore them. Voters are concerned with pressing social problems they experience firsthand. Research shows that traditional political and civic decision-making, to youth, is barren. Meanwhile, there is a preference for local community involvement that is hands-on. That which is practical, whether it be tutoring or school involvement, regional organizations, or other forms of volunteerism, there lies the potential for desire in civic engagement, an engagement that reaches many levels, from youth development to community service to youth leadership development, civic activism, and the opportunity for full decision making. There are tactics to make youth involvement genuine and meaningful, to better their society, and to set them up for their future.

Too often organizations go through the motions without engaging with youth genuinely, with meaningful outcomes. Tokenism does more harm than good. Empowerment does not follow an agenda or formulate their involvement for their mean, rather it is a dire willingness to give youth a voice in decisions that affect them.

The least engaged sector of youth is reported to exist in more challenged, older, lower-income, distressed communities. These communities do not receive opportunities for youth involvement in the community as a whole aside from connections within their families. Whether or not it is a factor of discussion, the results of access to groups that participate in pressing and relevant issues are evidence of the importance of leadership opportunities that allow them to develop practical skills in decision-making and managing change.

In terms of decision-making, it is not completely alien in the local arena. In Waupaca, Wisconsin, young people serve as voting members of the local city council that makes laws and allocates resources. The Initiative brought about a new skateboard park for the town, volunteer opportunities with community organizations for 6th graders, and a youth-led grant-making committee offering funding for local organizations' projects.

To get youth involved, they need a form of human motivation, certain people, adults, who provide personal support and assistance at many levels. Young people initially need at least one enthusiastic adult in the neighborhood, a community organization, a youth development agency, or local government. Someone with consistent time and the ability to make community decisions.

When youth gets involved with decision-making initiatives, it is often presented as an offer up for negotiation. Negotiations stall when either side locks itself into defending a position, instead of describing its interests to each other. Rather than identifying a position and defending it to the exclusion of others' interests, the goal is to find areas of agreement and common interests.

Getting a young person to find a reason to get involved is sometimes difficult. Though, once one peer has an initiative it is all the difference. Young people can figure out how to get others involved. As one young man at the 2004 Learning Exchange said, "Other youth are the best recruiters. We know how to talk to each other. We know what's important to them. We'll be honest and be ourselves." Opening all doors. Some adults researched in Vermont struggled to find youth willing to share what they needed from the community. Finally, they found an out-of-school 16-year-old who wanted to talk. He was able to persuade other teens to join discussions. Soon, they were hearing from youth on release from juvenile detention as well as honour students.

Getting the attention of the youth and recruiting them for community improvement is scrambled and brings challenges. This initial effort is not all the battle. However, keeping young people engaged can be far more difficult. Both youth and adults have busy lives with polarizing directions. Most young people want to explore many career directions and options for their future. Nothing is for certain but instead moving quickly. Retaining young participants requires a strong plan with specific strategies and tools, as well as the ability to be flexible.

For a member of the youth to be and continue to be involved they need to get something out of it that will meet their personal goals and needs, such as opportunities to meet people, having fun, better job opportunities, or learning new skills. They are motivated by their values or beliefs, such as a sense of social justice or responsibility to others. A friend or mentor is what often keeps one invested. It is the counselor's responsibility to make sure people don't feel like they wasted their time. Participation is cherished, and keeping in touch lets people know their time was and is valued.

It is a major investment to incorporate youth involvement in a meaningful way, that is because people of all ages are incredibly dynamic. The relationship between sectors of age and experience and challenges is meant to be bridged because we are not just outdoing ourselves for the here and now, we are creating a people that is well equipped to take on their future and programmed with the desire to see an honourable system and good change.

"There is a huge gap between the daily world of youngsters and grownups; if we do not bridge this gap, making policy for them is useless and without results."

—Thijs Malmberg - Ordina,
The Netherlands

Recent Involvement & Achievements
Contributions to school/community, leadership activities, & achievements

Community

Youth Room Art Mural @ Bethany Chapel Calgary 23ft x 8ft

Camp Councillor: YMCA Camp Riveredge Calgary

Camp Councillor & Cook: Salem Acres Bible Camp; allergy liaison

3 months of “missions” focused Bible School in Ersekë, Albania: Helped run a weekly kid’s program & 10 days of outreach in Bilisht, Albania

Royal Academy of Dance (11 Years) up to Advanced Foundation: Received "distinction" in examination multiple times; played Thumbelina in "Thumbelina" & Coppélia in "Coppélia"

Ballet Leadership Team: Taught in Dance Camps; fundraised to renovate studio; traveled to Savoury Island to rehearse & perform

Academic

Timothy Award - Gr. 12 Award for Highest Overall Average & Academic Excellence

Overall Top Academic in a Class of 46 (Grades 9 & 10 & 11 & 12) ~96%+ Average

University of Waterloo Pascal Mathematics School Champion, 2020 (Grade 9) Competed in the Euclid Contest, 2023

School - Prairie Christian Academy

Varsity Volleyball & Basketball (Provincials Qualifiers 2021)

PCA Student Council: Gr. 12 Vice President & Class Instagram Admin

Senior Yearbook Team

Senior Grad Mural - On Three Hills Mainstreet

Colombia Missions Team/Trip: Lesson prepped/taught English; visited a handicapped orphanage; an old folks home, & other community outreaches

Church - Trochu Baptist Church

Sunday School Teacher

Vacation Bible School Volunteer

Guila Lasaleta-Vust

June 28, 2024

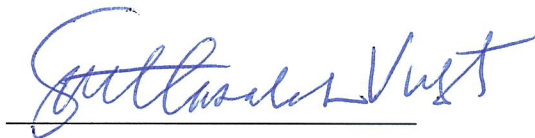
To Whom It May Concern,

Greetings! My Name is Guila Lasaleta-Vust. I have known _____ and her family for more than 5 years through Baptist Church and its different volunteer programs and activities in our community in Trochu, Alberta. I had the privilege of working closely with _____ in one of the Vacation Bible School as my Assistant Leader and she is marvelous in performing her duties like teaching the students and assisting them. _____ is a wonderful leader to the students on different activities, she is flexible to adapt to sudden changes, she is very intelligent yet very humble in giving service to others with a happy smile on her face.

I would like to validate and confirm that all the list of contributions and accomplishments of _____ is True and Accurate in her involvement in school and the community. She is a wonderful person inside out, she is exceptionally intelligent, she works hard as well as she works smart; she is easily trained and always willing to learn with a great attitude. _____ goes above and beyond and has lots of dedication to her work with attention to detail and with exemplary efforts.

I highly commend _____ She would make a great asset in whatever endeavors she pursues in her field of choice.

Sincerely Yours,



Guila Lasaleta-Vust

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend _____ for admission to your institution. I am a high school teacher at Prairie Christian Academy in Three Hills, Alberta. I came to know _____ when she entered my grade 10 mathematics class. Right from the start, I could tell _____ was an exceptional young lady.

Throughout _____ high school career, I had the privilege of teaching her in all her math and physics classes, including Calculus and Physics 30 in her senior year. Her aptitude in the mathematical sciences is absolutely top tier. In my 16 years of teaching high school math and physics, I have had only a small handful of students demonstrate _____ level of understanding.

I also had the privilege of teaching _____ in a Philosophy class. In that setting, I was fortunate to see another side of _____ one where she contemplated and wrestled with some of the big existential questions of life. Her maturity beyond her years and depth of understanding were truly a privilege to witness.

While _____ can boast of a natural aptitude and giftedness in academics, as I've already described, she can boast in like fashion of her work ethic and sacrifice. It is no wonder she topped her classes in school, for I doubt any other member of her classes put in the same hours of study and preparation. Brains and elbow grease in equal measures; truly a combination that is seldom found.

_____ achievements are numerous and noteworthy. She was awarded the Timothy Award in Grade 12 for the highest overall average and academic excellence. Throughout her high school years, she was the overall top academic in her class of 46 students (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12) with an impressive average of 96%+. In 2020, as a Grade 9 student, she was the University of Waterloo Pascal Mathematics School Champion and competed in the prestigious Euclid Contest in 2023.

_____ is also a well-rounded individual with involvement in various extracurricular activities. She was a member of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams, both of which qualified for provincials in 2021. In her senior year, she served as the Vice President of the PCA Student Council and managed the class Instagram account. Additionally, she was part of the senior yearbook team and contributed to the creation of the Senior Grad Mural on Three Hills Mainstreet.

Of notable inclusion was her participation in the PCA Colombia Missions Team/Trip. Each student in the 10-member team was responsible for raising their own funds to travel to South America for a 2-week outreach where they volunteered at schools, orphanages, homeless shelters, hospices, and more. To me, it was unsurprising to see _____ spend her time, money, and holidays helping those in need.

In conclusion, and without equivocation, _____ is an exceptional candidate in whatever capacity she is applying for at your institution. If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with any further information, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley Guedes

Stanley Guedes, MMT
Head of Mathematics
Prairie Christian Academy



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

[Redacted area for personal information]

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: University of Sask

Name of Program: Geology

Entry Date of Program: Sept 30

CHECKLIST

- Application Form and Signed Declaration
- Written Essay
- Two Letters of Reference
- List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements.
- Confirmation of Enrollment
- Graduation Picture

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DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

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Signature of Applicant

July 30 June 30, 202
Date

What are the challenges and opportunities for youth participation in county decisions and public engagements? What barriers do young people face, and how can these obstacles be addressed to enhance their enforcement?

Youth Participation and how Decisions Made Affect Us

A common problem we see today is little to no involvement of the leaders of tomorrow in our communities. This is because many young people feel unprepared about going to these meetings and contributing to these decisions because they feel as if they won't be taken seriously or they don't know about how the decisions made now are going to affect them later. As a rural student myself I have seen how decisions made by the County have affected us positively and why we need a youth voice to contribute.

Contrary to what many people may think, young people are not aware of the opportunities in their area even with their high usage of social media. Many youth don't participate because they don't know due to the platforms it's being posted on. To get more information to students we need to use the media they are on. Many kids today have volunteered for countless hours for community activities because they saw the post on instagram. Another way to provide youth with the information regarding participation in communities is to have the schools they go to announce it. In my personal experience I know lots of people who hear about a chance to volunteer on the announcements before class and often go, myself included. Since many youth also cannot drive they will also need time to plan ahead to get to any activity so the more notice they are given, the higher the chance they will sign up for it.

A positive decision made by Kneehill County which affected youth was the water lines brought out to the rural properties one of which I live on. For a small fraction of the price it would have been for farmers to install their own water lines by themselves; our Country sponsored the project making it affordable. Hauling water is a task many of us were faced with. You would have to watch how much water was used and when we had no power we couldn't use our water. Being able to have practically unlimited use has changed many young people's lives positively and lessened their chore load.

Feeling unprepared for a job, or even a meeting is stressful. Lots of jobs or even volunteering gigs require previous knowledge and more often than not youth don't have the previous skills or experience yet because they've never done something like that before. We need to be able to make young people feel okay knowing that they don't know everything yet. When there are meetings or decisions we want youth to participate in we have to know that maybe they aren't going to be the most prepared, but every

time after that they will improve. Having people help them along the way coaching them and giving them support is what's needed.

This generation is going to be the leaders of tomorrow which means our input is important to the people who are governing us today because of how it will affect us later. Another challenge in youth participation in County decisions is young people not realizing that all decisions made are going to affect them. Just this year on May 14, Kneehill County voted against the proposal of a waste management facility here in our County to preserve our land. And keep it farmable for as long as possible. This directly affects youth as they will be the ones inheriting the land in the future but many of us don't think ahead. To make young people understand the importance of participating and voicing their concerns on opinions we need to show them that it does affect them. Just last year in November Kneehill County helped dig up dinosaur bones in Horseshoe Canyon and were successful in their work with the museum. Many students are passionate about science and history and plan to pursue careers in paleontology. If they knew that it is encouraged to go to the canyon to find bones they may be able to help excavate some of it and would have directly supported something they are passionate about.

Some barriers faced by young people can be financial, a lack of support or a lack of resources they have available to them. Without support from family and friends we cannot be involved in our communities. Especially when we are young we may need someone to drive us to our volunteering or our sports games. We need someone to support us so we can gain confidence in what we are doing and will put ourselves out there more after we feel confident in what we are doing. Which would lead us to be able to support others. Having a lack of resources also creates a barrier due to the inability to complete tasks that could be asked of us. Something that could help with this would be mentors. People who are willing to take a young person on and support them. Making sure that they are taught all the things they need to know about something before they make a decision. A mentor could also help them understand why all County decisions affect them and why a youth voice is important to take into consideration.

Having a youth voice is important because it would ensure that policies being made are also keeping in mind the youth and their needs. An issue with this though is that young people feel as if they won't be taken seriously for important decisions due to the fact that they are inexperienced. We need to let them know that that's what is being looked for. We need to ensure that youth know that their inexperience is okay as long as they are willing to learn for next time. It's also important that we have youth that are actively involved in our communities saying their concerns for decisions because they are the ones who are out there and see what's going on.

As a Kneehill County resident, I am proud that our County fights to keep our land clean and safe for future generations and looks for opportunities to bring new infrastructure such as clean accessible water to our community. Coming from a multi-generational farming family and hoping to reside in rural Alberta once I graduate University, it is extremely important that we have leaders that continue to make strong positive decisions regarding our land. My University goal is to become a geologist and do my part in ensuring safe usage and preservation of our land for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Volunteer History

- Highway cleanup
- Drumheller district and humane society
- Gran Fondo
- Strawberry teas for the Drumheller Girl Guides
- St Anthony's library
- As a teacher helper for kindergarten and grade 2
- Coaching grades 5-6 in a three month long volleyball program
- Scorekeeper for all sports events at St Anthony's

Personal Achievements

- Honour role at school
- Crew trainer at the Drumheller McDonald's
- Grade 9 level pianist and have achieved most promising 2 years in a row and being invited to provincials in Edmonton
- Have been to accepted to the University of Saskatchewan for the program of my choice

Kurt Phillips
Humanities Team Leader

June 27, 2024

Scholarship Committee
Kneehill County Rural Student Scholarship

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to offer my wholehearted recommendation for [redacted] in her application for the Kneehill County Rural Student Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of knowing [redacted] throughout her junior and senior high school years, and I can confidently say that she exemplifies the qualities this scholarship seeks to recognize.

[redacted] academic achievements are truly commendable. She has been on the honour roll every year, demonstrating her dedication and commitment to her studies. Her consistent performance is a testament to her strong work ethic and determination to excel academically.

In addition to her academic success, [redacted] has shown exceptional talent and leadership in extracurricular activities. In September 2022, she was honored as the Rotary Student of the Month, a reflection of her exemplary character and community involvement. Her athletic achievements are equally impressive. In 2022, [redacted] and her softball team won the provincials and were crowned champions for the 17u B level. Moreover, she was recognized as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in badminton at Saint Anthony's, and she received the Badminton Sabres Award for her leadership and kindness in the sport.

[redacted] commitment to her community is evident through her volunteer work. She has generously given her time at the Humane Society and the CWL Strawberry Teas, showing her compassion and willingness to help others. Additionally, she assists her grandparents around the farm, further highlighting her sense of responsibility and family values.

[redacted] is not only academically gifted and athletically talented, but she is also personable, friendly, and dependable. Her ability to balance her numerous commitments while maintaining a positive and helpful attitude sets her apart from her peers. She is a young woman of integrity and kindness, always willing to lend a hand and support those around her.

In conclusion, [redacted] is an outstanding candidate for the Kneehill County Rural Student Scholarship. Her academic prowess, athletic achievements, community service, and admirable personal qualities make her a deserving recipient of this award. I have no doubt that she will continue to excel and make significant contributions to her community and beyond.

Thank you for considering [redacted] application. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 403-334-5554 or at my email address kphillips@redeemer.ab.ca

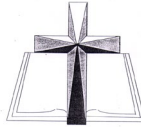
Sincerely,



Kurt Phillips

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

**MAKING
THE
WORLD**



**A BETTER
PLACE
TO BE**

1000 N Dinosaur Trail

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Michelle Fournier, and I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of . I have taught numerous courses since grade 9 and she was most recently in my Biology 30 and Chemistry 30 classes. It has been my pleasure to teach her over the past few years and watch her mature into the fine young woman that she is today.

Sophia is a dedicated student and consistently receives high marks. She is a hard worker and takes care to always submit high quality work. I have observed that performs consistently no matter the value of the assignment, from minor projects to final exams. In my opinion, can be counted on to never give up when faced with a difficult concept or challenging problem that requires critical thinking to solve. I believe that the dedication that she shows to her schoolwork would easily transfer into the workplace.

has always participated actively in group settings, both as leader and supporting others in that role. is able to confidently explain her ideas and listen carefully to others. She is a kind and respectful student that I was happy to have in my classroom.

I have no reservations in recommending for a position with your organization and will be happy to answer any additional questions you may have about her.

Sincerely,

Michelle Fournier, B.Sc. B.Ed.
Senior High Science Department Head
St. Anthony's School



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30 AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

[Redacted area for personal information]

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Southern Maine Community College

Name of Program: Health Science

Entry Date of Program: August 26 2024

CHECKLIST

- Application Form and Signed Declaration
- Written Essay
- Two Letters of Reference
- List of contributions made to school or community, leadership activities and personal achievements.
- Confirmation of Enrollment
- Graduation Picture

Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for a scholarship award.



Scholarship Award
2024 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read and understand the instructions, and DECLARE THAT:

- All information provided is true and complete and I understand it is subject to audit.
- I will meet any eligibility requirements and obligations of the scholarship as stated in Kneehill County Policy #15-5.
- I will be a full-time student at the institution named for the period stated.
- I will immediately notify Kneehill County in writing if I withdraw from full-time studies before completing one semester of studies.
- I am a rural resident of Kneehill County.

I understand and agree that:

- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, I may be requested to attend a recognition ceremony to be publically recognized.
- If I receive a Kneehill County Scholarship Award, my name and photo may be published in the local newspaper, Kneehill County website and in other Kneehill County Communications.
- Any incomplete scholarship application will not be processed or considered for Scholarship award.

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of Applicant

June 30 2024

Date

Kneehill County Scholarship Essay

When the question of the challenges and opportunities young people within our community face when encountered with participation in County decisions, many thoughts come to mind. First and foremost, I think most of the young individuals coming out of high school have a general lack of knowledge on County matters. This is because most young people are unaware of the everyday workings of the County, its members, and their duties. Of course in school we learn about municipal government, but there is no present day knowledge about our County's decisions being brought forward in the classroom. Thinking about this it truly disheartens me, if I'm the future generation shouldn't I be aware of the direction my County members are taking me. I can see a few possible solutions to get our youth more involved. That being, a possible student liaison between the school and County, someone who can give the County information directly to us youth. Another possible solution to this problem would be an option class that would teach our young individuals about the current County members and their goals. I believe there would be tremendous interest in this topic as there are many students that have rural backgrounds and the County decisions directly affect them and their families future. If this class option was implemented it would destroy another barrier we face as adolescents. To most of us politics can be intimidating, this can lead to very few of us willing to step forward and present any kind of ideas. With this new knowledge base that the class option and student liaison bring forth, it will provide confidence for the youth to feel recognized in the County's eyes. I also think it would be truly helpful if you would be willing to come out and engage with the students within our schools. I do realize this will be a challenge, as being a council member isn't your only job and your time is limited. I do believe though this would create a friendly environment between the youth and your council members. Being able to foster a more personal connection would help our youth be more comfortable and want to become more involved. Unfortunately right now most of us probably have little knowledge on who each of you are and your role in the County. If you could foster a relationship with the schools, I am confident that we would have a lot of questions for you and hopefully vice versa. My last and final thought to help fix this separation would be to have the County expand their social media presence. With the growing technology very few of us read the paper or use facebook, but we are out there and interested in learning more.

List of contributions to the school, community, leadership activities and personal achievements

- Ran various local clinics for young softball players
- Made the Alberta Elite softball winter training team
- Recruited and accepted to Southern Maine Community College for softball
- Member of leadership class
- Former student council member
- Captain of basketball team
- Represented my school at various provincial sporting venues (cross country, volleyball, track and field)
- Honor roll status

June 29th, 2024

RE:

To: Whom it may concern,

I have had the opportunity to coach, and to get to know _____ as a participant in our winter softball training academy. When I first saw _____ participating in her travel team practices, I was struck by her obvious passion for and dedication to her athletic and skill development.

_____ joined our winter training academy in 2023 and quickly established herself as one of the leaders of our group, demonstrating and influencing others through her strong confident approach and displaying an incredible work ethic and drive for continuous improvement and growth. _____ actions and demeanor attract the younger players to her, and I see them striving to emulate these qualities. I have also spoken to younger players from _____ home community that are very excited to know that I coached her and obviously look up to her as a role model.

Through all her dedication and hard work, _____ attained an incredible goal of being recruited by Southern Maine Community College to attend college and play softball for their very competitive Seawolves team. This is an amazing opportunity for her to continue her education while playing her sport in the USA at a highly competitive level. _____ is enrolled to start at Southern Maine Community College in August 2024.

I have enjoyed working with _____ very much and found her to be one of the most grounded, determined, hardworking and dependable young ladies that I have met.

Please accept my highest recommendation for _____ and don't hesitate to contact me if I can offer any further information.

Best Regards,

Mike Weiss

Director and Head Coach - Alberta Athletics Elite Softball Academy



Trochu Valley School
Box 190
Trochu, AB
T0M 2C0
Phone: 403-442-3872
Email: trochu.valley@ghsd75.ca



To Whom it may concern,

June 30th, 2024

It is with great pleasure that I write this character reference for _____ has attended Trochu Valley School for her school career from Kindergarten through to Grade 12. I have had the privilege to be her Associate Principal for the last nine years and watch _____ grow into the incredible young woman she is today. I was able to get to know _____ more throughout her high school years as her Social Studies teacher but even more so as her Sr. High Basketball coach.

_____ is a young, independent and strong woman with incredible dedication, determination, and work ethic. She is a high achieving individual that continually strives to do her best in everything she does. _____ works hard in each class to achieve and maintain her honour roll status and is a role model to so many through her work and study habits.

As an athlete _____ plays with determination and a strong competitive spirit while always modeling the highest level of sportsmanship as she competes. Her dedication to her teammates is not just shown during a game or practice. She always shows up early and is prepared to be a leader for her teammates. _____ was a dream player to coach, always giving more than asked of her.

As a student in our school _____ portrays what it looks like to maintain academic excellence; modeling for other students diligence in her studies. But above all, _____ leads selflessly in whatever is needed around the school. _____ always makes others feel welcome in our hallways and classrooms and her presence will be missed.

I am so proud of all _____ accomplishments, but the incredible character that she bestows is what really stands out to me. Her giving spirit and selfless nature is just a part of who she is as a young woman. We will miss her next year but share in her excitement as she ventures off to her next chapter in life. If you have any questions regarding this reference letter for _____, you may contact me at Trochu Valley School (403)-442-3872.

Chantalle Van Otterloo
Associate Principal
Trochu Valley School

2024 Kneehill County Scholarship

Rate Essay and Letters of Reference on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest)

Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
1	Red Deer Polytechnic Bachelor of Arts Psychology	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
2	Red Deer Polytechnic Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
3	Mount Royal University Bachelor of Business Administration	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
4	SAIT Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
5	McGill University Physics (Faculty of Science)	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
6	University of Saskatchewan Geology	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%
Applicant		Essay (1-10)		Contributions (1-10)		Letters of Reference (1-10)	
			Score		Score		Score
7	Southern Maine Community College Health Science	Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1		Councillor # 1	
		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2		Councillor # 2	
		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3		Councillor # 3	
		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4		Councillor # 4	
		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5		Councillor # 5	
		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6		Councillor # 6	
		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7		Councillor # 7	
		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0
			0%		0%		0%