



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICANT #1

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

School Graduated From: Acme School

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Olds College of Agriculture and Technology

Name of Program: Agriculture Management

Entry Date of Program: Sept 2/25

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input 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. | |

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

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Version 2025



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POLICY #15-5

APPLICANT #1

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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Jun 15, 2025

Date

What Initiatives Can a Rural Municipality Take to Foster Youth Entrepreneurship and Career Opportunities Within the Region?

Workers are necessary in any municipality to ensure people are fed, houses have power, vehicles have energy, and there is plumbing indoors. They are also necessary in order for a municipality to expand. Building homes, new businesses, and giving back to the economy. Because of this it is important that Kneehill County should be trying to encourage entrepreneurship and creations of new careers. The best way to do this is by providing more opportunities that encourage youth to find careers that they have interest in locally, and help youth planning on starting their own business. There are many ways a rural municipality can enhance youth career and entrepreneurship opportunities that encourage youth to find careers they have interest in.

Apprenticeship programs and mentorships allow for an individual to earn a wage while being taught, making students have less debt, and also provides them with a job when they have finished school. Kneehill County already has many businesses that have apprenticeship programs and it is very beneficial towards youth looking into trades. When a business apprentices someone, it also encourages that person to continue working where they apprenticed. This is helpful because it can help them potentially be promoted quicker after the apprenticeship because they were specifically trained there, and it also promotes hiring locally. Apprenticeship programs also allow for youth to experience the career and know if it really is what they want to do. Local workshops for youth looking into starting their own business teach entrepreneurial skills through mentorships and also provide networking opportunities with guest speakers and one on one conversations with experienced entrepreneurs. These would be beneficial to a youth interested in starting their own company. This helps to create more local companies and job opportunities for youth. Financial support to youth starting companies also supports the growth of new job opportunities for youth, and helps the company get started. This can be done by having those interested fill out an application similar to a scholarship, but for their company and the selected applicant would receive money to help start their company. This would create more opportunities for youth entrepreneurs. These are ways a municipality can create youth job opportunities and help build more businesses in the community.

Kneehill County can foster a strong youthful workforce in the municipality by investing in apprenticeship programs, mentorship opportunities, entrepreneurial workshops, and financial support to young business owners. Not only will it be investing in the youths' future but the future growth and sustainability of Kneehill County. Keeping youth in the community with jobs creates more jobs and also creates a strong community of people who grew up there. Taking these initiatives to foster youth career opportunities can help a municipality such as this to continue thriving in the future.

Community Involvement and Leadership Activities

Volunteered annually at the Acme/Linden Food Grains Supper

Volunteered annually at the Acme United Church Fall supper

Member of the Swalwell 4-H Beef Club for 9 years

- Held the positions of Club Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Gratitude, Club Reporter and District Rep

Sat on the Kneehill 4-H District Council for 4 years

- Held the positions of District Secretary, District Vice President

- District Champion Showmanship and Grooming 2025, 2024

Employed at Xtreme Concrete Jun 2023-present

School Involvement and Personal Achievements

Maintained honor roll throughout high school

Acme Reds Sr. Volleyball team

- Team Captain 2023
- Defensive Player of the Year 2024
- Zone 2 Division Champions 2024
- 7th place at Provincials 2024

Acme Reds Sr. Basketball team

- most improved player 2023

Acme Reds Badminton

Acme Reds Track and Field

- Zone qualifier 2023

Acme Reds Cross Country team

- Zone qualifier 2023

Volunteered in school sports as

- coached the Acme Junior Reds Volleyball team
- linesman in volleyball
- scorekeeper in volleyball and basketball



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

ACME SCHOOL & DR. ELLIOTT SCHOOL

Mrs. Cathy Price, Teacher

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for

Dear Scholarship Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend _____ for the Kneehill County Scholarship. I have had the privilege of knowing _____ as his Career and Technology Foundations (CTF) teacher in junior high and as his Career Practitioner throughout his high school years at Dr. Elliott School and Acme School respectively. I also know _____ through my involvement in the 4-H program as a past leader in Kneehill District.

_____ has consistently demonstrated the qualities that 4-H values: dedication, leadership, and a commitment to personal growth. His long standing membership in the Swalwell 4-H Beef Club speaks volumes about his commitment to community and agriculture. Within our school community, Wyatt has been an exemplary student, maintaining a strong academic standing while actively participating in school sports.

His dedication to athletics is particularly noteworthy. As a key player and leader on our school's volleyball team, _____ played a pivotal role in their success. His contributions were instrumental in the team's victory at the 2024 Senior Boys South Central 2A Zones Championships, and their subsequent qualification for the Provincial Championships in Peace River, where they placed 7th overall. As the team's libero, _____ agility and strategic play were vital to their performance, showcasing his ability to excel under pressure.

Beyond his academic and athletic achievements, _____ has shown a proactive approach to exploring his future career paths. He actively participated in our high school Career Series, demonstrating a genuine interest in understanding various career options. His initiative to independently organize a job shadowing experience with a local instrumentation technician and electrician, who holds dual certifications, highlights his commitment to lifelong learning and practical experience. This self-directed exploration reflects his maturity and desire to make informed decisions about his future.

Throughout his time at Acme School, Wyatt has impressed me with his strong work ethic, his ability to collaborate effectively, and his genuine desire to learn and grow. He is a responsible, respectful, and highly motivated individual who consistently strives for excellence.

I am confident that _____ dedication to 4-H, his academic achievements, his athletic accomplishments, and his proactive approach to career exploration make him an ideal candidate for the Kneehill County Scholarship. He embodies the mission of Kneehill County as, "a rural community that embraces its agricultural lifestyle and an economically diverse future," and possesses the potential to make significant contributions to his community and chosen field.

I wholeheartedly recommend _____ for this scholarship without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Cathy Price

Cathy Price
Career Practitioner and Teacher

~ Committed to Excellence ~

Deanna Keiver |

June 12, 2025

Kneehill County
C/O Scholarship Program

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this reference at the request of _____, for a Kneehill County Scholarship. I have known _____ for 10 years including as an Assistant Leader for the Swalwell 4-H Beef Club for 8 years. _____ has taken on key positions including, but not limited to Club Vice President, Parliamentarian, Secretary, and Kneehill District Secretary. While taking on these roles, Wyatt gave his 100% every year, all the time.

_____ is not only eligible for this scholarship, but he deserves it. _____ would never hesitate to include a new member and make them feel welcome and comfortable. This not only benefited the younger new members, but he was also able to encourage the older members to welcome and assist as well. He is a true leader.

Another one of his strengths is his willingness to help others. Since he is in a beef club, he has taught countless 4-H members how to fit and show a steer or a heifer. Wyatt also excels in showmanship and is never afraid to work with someone and help them, even if they end up being a fellow competitor. _____ is a true gentleman.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend _____ for the 2025 Kneehill County Scholarship. I am proud to have been his leader. The world today needs more young adults like _____. Feel free to reach me by telephone or by email at deannakeiver@gmail.com.



Sincerely,
Deanna Keiver



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending:

University of Calgary

Name of Program:

Biological Sciences

Entry Date of Program:

Fall 2025

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 |
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Signature of Applicant

June 30, 2025

Date

Kneehill County Scholarship Essay

Small businesses help rural citizens access unique goods and services, and they diversify rural economies. In rural areas, it can be challenging for entrepreneurs, especially young people, to start up new ventures due to adversities such as poor internet, isolation and limited access to customers. Municipalities can help promote entrepreneurship by increasing access to startup funding and grants, hosting learning workshops and networking events, and providing spaces for small businesses to set up offices and retail spaces.

Without funding, it is challenging for entrepreneurs to begin new projects. Municipalities trying to foster small businesses can do so by providing financial support and grants to innovators so that they can take the first steps towards running a business. Financial support is beneficial, especially in rural areas, as there may be increased costs associated with travel or having resources delivered. Funding would also be advantageous for young entrepreneurs, as youth often lack the means to fund their projects, especially if their business is their first job. Providing financial support to rural entrepreneurs would promote new projects and small businesses within the county.

Networking is the key to developing small businesses, and opportunities to network are limited in rural areas. By hosting networking nights in various communities within the county, the county can encourage connections between like-minded entrepreneurial individuals. These events would allow small business owners to meet, share ideas, collaborate, and give advice to new entrepreneurs. Experienced business owners can share tips and help young entrepreneurs start businesses. Young entrepreneurs can also rely on their connections for problem-solving and support if they face challenges. The county could also host educational workshops for young people interested in starting businesses. These workshops would teach youth the skills and knowledge to develop businesses, as well as help them connect with like-minded peers. Providing opportunities for connections and learning would foster entrepreneurship within the county.

Creating entrepreneurial hubs within communities would make it easier for entrepreneurs to find workspaces to run their businesses. These hubs could include office space, market space, and workshop space, and they could be shared by local small business owners who are just starting to develop their businesses. By providing entrepreneurs with office space with access to shared printers, office supplies, and high-speed internet, it makes it easier for entrepreneurs to manage their businesses, especially because poor rural internet can often pose challenges. Shared market space would allow entrepreneurs to increase community engagement, create more community awareness of local startups, and help business owners connect with customers and

sell products in person, rather than relying solely on digital sales. Grouping small business market spaces would also help increase visits to all small businesses, as it would be more convenient for customers to shop with many businesses in one place. Shared workshops would provide entrepreneurs access to expensive tools, equipment, and machinery to run trade-oriented businesses without having to cover the costs of the equipment itself, which would make it easier for entrepreneurs to start businesses of that nature. Collective spaces for entrepreneurs would also create more opportunities for entrepreneurs to network and develop connections. These shared workspaces could be county-owned, and entrepreneurs could use them for a small price. The fees paid by many small businesses would help cover the cost of creating and maintaining the hubs, and the county can support the facilities and assist small businesses by providing entrepreneurs with spaces to manage businesses, network, and produce and sell products and services.

Financial support, networking opportunities, and entrepreneurial hubs can all foster small businesses within rural areas. Financial supports allow entrepreneurs to shape their ideas into real businesses. Networking opportunities promote connection and learning, which helps inspire new entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial hubs provide resources and services for many small business owners within the county. By encouraging entrepreneurship, the county can diversify local economies and promote innovation in its communities.

Contributions and Participation

School

- Academics
 - Top Academic each year
 - Valedictorian
- Athletics
 - Cross Country
 - Attended Provincials (Grade 12)
 - Volleyball
 - JV Captain (Grade 11)
 - Senior MVP (Grade 12)
 - Basketball
 - Senior Captain (Grade 12)
 - Junior High 'A' and 'B' team Coach (Grade 11 & 12)
 - MVP (Grade 12)
 - Track and Field
 - Attended Zones (Grade 12)
 - Grade 12 MVP
 - Female Athlete Of The Year

Community

- Acme Karate (8 years)
 - Black Belt Women's Champion (2024)
 - Earned 2nd degree Black Belt (2024)
 - Junior Instructor
 - Team Canada to IMAC World Championships (Grand Champion)
- Kneehill 4-H Multi Club (7 years)
 - Held executive positions (Vice President, Gratitude Coordinator, Parliamentarian, District Representative)
 - Involved in many activities at the District, Regional and Provincial levels
 - Camp Staff for provincial 4-H archery camp held in Carbon
 - Engaged in various community service activities
- Carbon Ag Society
 - Volunteering for the Carbon Archery Range
 - Spring setup and fall teardown
 - Instructing new archers
- Swim Instructor/Lifeguard Carbon Pool
 - 3 years instructing and lifeguarding



Acme School,

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Box 326, Acme, Alberta T0M 0A0

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Kneehill County
C/O Scholarship Program
PO Box 400
Three Hills, AB, T0M 2A0

June 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for _____, now finished grade twelve, has been a student of mine at Acme School for the past three years. During this time she has shown herself to be hardworking, diligent, and driven both in class and outside of class.

I am aware of _____ work with younger people through her coaching experience where she worked with Junior High students during the basketball season in Dr. Elliott School. _____ was also an active member of the high school sports programs at Acme School. She participated in cross country, volleyball, basketball, as well as track and field. She was also dedicated to an extracurricular club basketball team. All of this occurred while _____ maintained honour level grades in all of her subjects.

_____ is a bright, independent thinker, who takes initiative to problem solve and reach her goals. I strongly recommend _____ for any further financial assistance that would help her to continue her studies, as I am confident that she will prove a most valuable contributor to her school of choice, as well as society in general.

I am delighted to respond to any further inquiries regarding _____ character and wish her well in her pursuit of further studies.

Yours truly,

Catherine Loewen, B.A/B.Ed.



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

ACME SCHOOL & DR. ELLIOTT SCHOOL

Mrs. Cathy Price, Teacher

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for

Dear Scholarship Committee:

It is a true honour to write this letter of recommendation for _____ a remarkable Grade 12 student from Acme School, who is applying for the Kneehill County Scholarship. Having witnessed _____ consistent and dedicated involvement in our community over several years, I can confidently attest to her exceptional character, leadership potential, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in communities across our county..

_____ has consistently demonstrated a profound dedication to community service through various avenues. Her long-standing participation in 4-H has been particularly noteworthy. Through this organization, she has not only honed practical skills but has also developed invaluable leadership qualities, a strong sense of responsibility, and a deep understanding of community needs. As the past key leader for the Kneehill District and Kneehill Multi Club, I have observed her take initiative, collaborate effectively with peers, and contribute meaningfully to projects, always with enthusiasm and a desire to learn.

Furthermore, _____ commitment extends to her significant volunteer efforts with the Carbon Ag Society. In this role, she has been an integral part of initiatives that support and strengthen our local agricultural community. Her willingness to dedicate her time and energy to these events, often behind the scenes, speaks volumes about her selfless nature and her understanding of the vital role such organizations play in rural life. She approaches every task with diligence and a proactive attitude, ensuring the successful execution of various activities.

Beyond her involvement in agricultural pursuits, _____ has also showcased her leadership and mentorship skills by coaching a wide variety of youth sports in the communities of Acme, Linden, and Carbon. This role highlights her ability to inspire, guide, and positively influence younger members of our communities. She demonstrates patience, encouragement, and a genuine passion for fostering teamwork and skill development in children. Her dedication to youth sports underscores her comprehensive approach to community engagement, touching various facets of local life.

_____ is an exemplary student who embodies the spirit of community service and leadership that the Kneehill County Scholarship seeks to recognize. Her diverse involvement, from agricultural societies to youth development, showcases a well-rounded individual who is deeply invested in the well-being and growth of her community. I am confident that _____ possesses the drive, integrity, and potential to continue making significant contributions in her future endeavors.

I wholeheartedly recommend _____ for the Kneehill County Scholarship. She is a deserving candidate who truly represents the values this scholarship aims to uphold.

Sincerely,

Cathy Price

Cathy Price
Career Practitioner and Teacher

~ Committed to Excellence ~



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

Applicant #3

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: University of Lethbridge

Name of Program: Combined Sociology / Education Degree

Entry Date of Program: September 2025

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Form and Signed Declaration | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation of Enrollment |
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Signature of Applicant

June 29, 2025

Date

Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship and Career Opportunities in Kneehill County

Kneehill County, like many rural municipalities, is rich in natural resources, community spirit, and a strong agricultural heritage. But like other rural areas, retaining and empowering youth remains a challenge as many leave for education or employment opportunities in urban centers. To reverse this trend and build a sustainable future, Kneehill County can take practical steps to foster youth entrepreneurship and expand career opportunities right here at home.

Kneehill County already plays a vital role in funding events and services that keep our communities vibrant. The Community Non-Profit Grants, Rural Resident Connections Grant, and Sponsorship Programs support everything from youth sports to seniors' groups. These investments build community spirit, but we can go a step further by focusing more directly on youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Here are a few of my ideas to help youth build careers and businesses in Kneehill County:

- **County Youth Hiring Portal**

Develop a Kneehill County Youth Hiring Portal that is a dedicated online platform that gives youth living within the county early and exclusive access to local job and internship opportunities. Designed to support young residents in gaining valuable work experience, the portal connects them with employers in sectors like agriculture, municipal services, recreation, tourism, and local business.

Through verified accounts, county youth can:

- View and apply for job postings before they are made available to the general public
- Create digital profiles highlighting their skills, education, and interests
- Receive notifications about new opportunities, job fairs, and career workshops
- Access career readiness resources such as resume tips, interview guides, and training programs

By prioritizing local youth, the portal encourages workforce development, reduces outmigration, and strengthens community engagement by investing in the next generation.

- **Establish a Rural Youth Innovation Fund**

A grant or microloan program for youth-led business ideas would be a great place to start. Whether it's agri-tech, day camps, food vendors, or digital services, this fund could

help with startup costs, training, and pilot projects. Like the Community Futures program for adults, a youth version could support businesses like mobile ice cream carts, babysitting services, or farmers market tables for handmade goods. Partnering with local banks, schools, and post-secondary institutions would strengthen the program and make it more accessible.

- **Launch a Youth Business Incubator**

A rural business incubator tailored to youth could provide access to Wi-Fi, office space, mentorship, and business development resources. Located in a school, library, or municipal building, it could offer workshops on grant writing, budgeting, and marketing. Even better, why not give youth real, paid work experience through the incubator itself? From creating newsletters to digitizing county policies, many students have the tech skills needed to complete these tasks and their teachers can help identify the right student.

- **Create a Youth Internship and Co-op Program**

By partnering with local farms, trades, businesses, and service providers, the County could help facilitate paid co-op placements for high school and post-secondary students. These experiences help youth explore local career options while building relationships and skills. Returning post-secondary students as well as youth gain hands-on experience while supporting programs around value-added agriculture, agri-tourism, ag tech and sustainability, all of which create exciting new opportunities. And advertised on the County Youth Hiring Portal.

- **Build Local Leadership Opportunities**

Getting youth involved in municipal committees, economic development boards, or community groups helps develop leadership and confidence. Many 4-H members already understand formal meetings and governance, involving them in County-level planning is a natural next step and shows that their voices matter.

- **Highlight Youth Success Stories**

A regular “Youth Spotlight” in newsletters or on social media would showcase local youth making a difference, whether that’s returning to the family farm, starting a side business, or volunteering in the community. When we see others like us succeeding, it makes our own goals feel more possible.

Rural communities like Kneehill County have so much to offer. By providing the right tools, resources, and encouragement, we can help youth not just stay here but thrive here. I'm proud of the support I've received growing up in Kneehill County. It's shaped me into someone who's passionate about teaching, building community, and giving back. If we continue to invest in our youth, we'll see a future full of new ideas, new businesses, and young leaders who are proud to call this place home.

– Contributions and Participation in my Community

Hello! My name is . I'm a proud rural youth of Kneehill County and a 2025 graduate of Acme High School. This fall, I'll be heading to the University of Lethbridge to pursue a degree in Education and Sociology.

I have lived in Kneehill County my entire life and attended school in Carbon, Linden, and Acme. Growing up with farm family values, I've always felt the support of this incredible community — and I've done my best to give back. Whether it was painting bleachers, restoring ball diamonds, or MCing public speaking nights, I've been proud to volunteer my time to the people and places that raised me. From Acme's Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers to Carbon's Oktoberfest dinners, and even Acme Alumni Nights and sports days, giving back has always felt like the right thing to do.

Through 4-H, school sports like volleyball and badminton, and the Acme Student Association, I've learned how to plan, lead, motivate, and collaborate. I've spent over nine years volunteering for highway clean-up and have worked a part-time job while staying committed to my community, school, and clubs. I've also represented Linden and Acme at Drumheller's Arts events and participated in club volleyball — all of which have taught me balance, time management, and dedication.

One of my proudest achievements is co-illustrating two published children's books with one of my teachers. These are available on Amazon, and it's still a little surreal to say, "I did that." I'm also an avid photographer and find inspiration in the natural beauty of Kneehill County. Capturing the prairie skies, fields, and rolling hills helps me appreciate the land I hope to serve as an educator someday.

Academically, the path hasn't always been easy. A late-diagnosed learning disability made some school years more challenging. But I worked hard, found the right resources, and persevered. In Grade 9, I was honoured to receive the Wellsford Award, which recognizes inclusivity and compassion — two values that continue to shape who I am and how I want to support others.

Kneehill County has shaped me in every way. The opportunities I've had — whether creative, academic, or community-focused — all happened right here. And now, with the chance to pursue higher education, I plan to come back. My dream is to return to the newly built Acme School as a teacher. I want to use my own learning experiences to help students with learning challenges feel seen, supported, and capable of success. I know the difference that one encouraging adult can make — because I had that here.

Thank you for your consideration.

BJ Denby
Key Leader
Kneehill 4-H Multi Club

April 24, 2025

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is with immense pleasure that I recommend _____ for any and all scholarships under consideration. As her past 4-H leader for the Kneehill 4-H Multi Club, I have had the distinct privilege of watching her embody the 4-H motto, "Learn to Do by Doing," throughout her journey from a junior member to a senior leader.

_____ engagement with 4-H has been nothing short of remarkable. She has embraced the diverse opportunities offered, demonstrating a remarkable willingness to explore and excel in a wide range of projects. From the intricate artistry of glass blowing to the creative expression of fashion design through sewing, _____ has consistently approached each challenge with enthusiasm and a commitment to learning.

Her passion for 4-H extended beyond traditional projects. _____ particularly thrived at the Calgary Region's 4-H On Parade, where she participated in canine competitions. She not only excelled in this area but also recognized the potential to share her passion with others. _____ took the initiative to introduce the canine project to our club, starting it as an independent endeavor and nurturing its growth to include multiple members the following year. This initiative reflects her leadership and her ability to identify and cultivate new opportunities within our club.

_____ leadership was further demonstrated through her elected roles as Gratitude Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator. She embraced these responsibilities with dedication, ensuring that our club's appreciation and communication were effectively managed. She also played a vital role in planning our club's Christmas Party, showcasing her organizational and event planning skills.

Her commitment to the club's success was especially evident when she took on the role of emcee for our public speaking competition. This role required meticulous attention to detail, including managing paperwork, preparing judge's packages, confirming judges, and compiling their biographies. _____ handled these tasks with professionalism and efficiency, ensuring a smooth and successful event.

Beyond her leadership roles, _____ actively participated in fundraising events, including our annual 4-H Highway Cleanup. She understands the importance of contributing to both the club and the broader community.

_____ dedication, initiative, and leadership have made a significant impact on the Kneehill 4-H Multi Club. She embodies the values of 4-H and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to personal growth and community involvement. I am confident that she will continue to excel in her future endeavors and make a positive impact on the world. I wholeheartedly recommend her for any and all scholarships under consideration.

Sincerely,

BJ Denby

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with the highest level of enthusiasm that I write this letter of reference for . I have had the privilege of knowing as a student and community member, and I can say without hesitation that she is one of the most dedicated, creative, and community-minded young people I have encountered.

achievements speak volumes. She is a two-time published children's book illustrator, a testament to both her artistic talent and work ethic. Her design for Orange Shirt Day was selected as the winning entry for Golden Hills School Division, an honour that reflects her deep understanding of social justice and reconciliation, as well as her ability to express those values meaningfully through art.

is a proud graduate of Acme School and a long-standing McDonald's team member in Drumheller since 2022. Her commitment to balancing education, employment, and community involvement is remarkable. Over the years, she has earned several prestigious awards, including the GHSD Orange Shirt Day Design Winner, the 4H Alberta Bronze Medal of Excellence, the Welsford Community Spirit Award, and the Royal Purple Citizenship Award. Each of these honours reflects commitment to integrity, service, and excellence.

Her community service is extensive and deeply rooted. As a 4H member from 2017 to 2024 with the Kneehill Multi Club, held several executive positions, including Club Secretary, Reporter, and Social Media Coordinator. She also dedicated five years to volunteering with the Salvation Army in Drumheller, helping organize the Red Bag Food Drive. These are not just résumé points—they are clear demonstrations of her values in action.

At school, was also an active leader. As a member of the Acme Student Association Executive Committee, she helped plan school events and spirit days, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive school culture. In athletics, she was a valued teammate in volleyball, badminton, and track and field, showing commitment, teamwork, and a well-rounded approach to personal growth.

roots on her family's farm have shaped her into someone who understands the importance of hard work, responsibility, and collaboration. Her future plans are both inspiring and perfectly suited to her strengths—she will be attending the University of Lethbridge to complete a dual degree in Education and Sociology, with the goal of becoming a school social studies teacher.

is exactly the kind of young person we need more of in the world: creative, thoughtful, driven, and deeply committed to making a difference. I give her my wholehearted recommendation and have every confidence she will thrive in her post-secondary journey and beyond.

Sincerely,

Niki Cameron
Teacher
Dr. Elliott School



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

Applicant #4

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH 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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input 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. | |

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

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Version 2025



Scholarship Award 2025 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.

Date

Agriculture is becoming highly threatened and diminishing in today's world. I come to find people are unaware of where their food comes from or how it is raised. Farming and livestock are predominant industries throughout Kneehill County, from small back yard gardens, to farmers and ranchers, to the feedlots. I feel our heritage should be celebrated and presented with pride!

I believe an initiative Kneehill County could take to pursue youth entrepreneurship and career opportunities within the region is to launch a **ready to learn program** to increase the interest in agriculture and how it is imperative to our entire society. Field trips and day trips could be scheduled where students are able to ride buddy-seat while the farmers are seeding, haying, feeding, preparing for silage, swathing, harvesting, and baling straw for winter bedding. Observation and attendance could be arranged for calving season and while treating livestock. Another aspect of the program could be gardening and preserving food. There is so much to learn! The program could be incorporated into a work-share credit class for hours contributed, while revealing the processes involved and information critical to the processing. This type of program would also enable women to gain information and training in a male dominant industry.

My program suggestion could be combined with 4H, introductory Accounting classes, business plan writing, mechanical and vehicle maintenance, an established work-experience credit program, and grants or funding through a local Credit Union or Farm Credit Corporation. These options and resources already offered by Kneehill County launch youth on a path to success!

My list of achievements and contributions to the area:

- I operate my own firewood business. Through the years of living in Kneehill County, I have successfully gained clientele for my firewood business. I have sold firewood year-round in the area and neighbouring counties for 6 years.
- I volunteered at Mid-Country Auto Garage in Beiseker for 2 years and these hours also contributed to my work experience program. This enabled me to change oil in my vehicles, complete repairs and assess future repair requirements.
- Through Grade 11 and 12, I have worked full-time at a feedlot East of Linden, learning all I can about feeding, haying, processing beef cattle and treating sick cattle.
- Attendance and observation at local bull sales for information purposes, as I was employed by a local feedlot.
- Vista Virtual School recognized my involvement and achievements by granting me a Citizenship Award. This was based on keeping my grades up and completing assignments on schedule while working full-time and contributing to my rural area.
- I have achieved 90% or higher in my Agricultural classes (Intro to Ag, Ag Safety, Animal Basics, and Plant Propagation)
- I have volunteered for the Acme sports day.
- I raise my own sheep herd, which has doubled in size! This includes feeding, bedding, breeding, lambing and butchering.

Tiffany Olfert

m

June 29, 2025

Kneehill County
Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
Policy #15-5
#1600 – 2 Street North
Three Hills, AB
T0M 2A0

Dear Scholarship Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you to offer my recommendation of _____ for the Kneehill County Scholarship Award. I worked with _____ as her direct Supervisor at KAV Enterprises for one year. _____ is a remarkable young person who I have seen display a keen interest in the agricultural industry coupled with the determination to succeed. I believe she is an exemplary candidate for this opportunity.

Kneehill County looks at students who demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership and community involvement. _____ has revealed both qualities. As her direct supervisor, I have been inspired by her consistent hard working attitude and dedication to animal care. She would schedule to work as early as 4:30 AM and still have a smile on her face! Her full-time hours at KAV Enterprises and ability to maintain Grade 12 course requirements exemplifies her extreme focus and organizational skills. I also found _____ a quick learner. In the community, she has operated her firewood business for more than 6 years, establishing a firm customer base. This extra commitment requires many hours of manual labor, mechanical knowledge, and financial recording. _____ has a broad range of skills!

_____ will be attending Olds College, enrolled in Agricultural Management, which will set a solid foundation for her future endeavors. She has been focused on overcoming financial hardship, being raised by a single parent. This has not stopped her from striving to succeed and being determined to enroll in college. If anything, it has strengthened her resolve to accomplish her goals and meet people's high expectations.

It is because of these qualities that _____ has achieved so much in the short time I have worked with her. Therefore, I am honored to offer my support and recommendation for _____ as a qualified candidate for the Kneehill County Scholarship. She is a highly motivated and determined leader who I believe is graciously deserving of this honor. I'm certain she would use this scholarship to continue a career marked by dedication and excellence.

In the event that you have any further inquiries with respect to her capacity or this proposal, please contact me directly using my phone number or email address shown above.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Olfert

Trevor Snyder
Midcountry Automotive

June 29, 2025

Kneehill County
Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
Policy #15-5
#1600 – 2 Street North
Three Hills, AB
T0M 2A0

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I am writing this letter of support for _____, in regards to the scholarship opportunity that has been presented.

_____ has volunteered for the last three years at our local repair shop. Some of it was her spare time and some was used for work-share school credit. She has learned many new skills and helped deal directly with customer concerns. I find _____ is a community minded individual who is eager to learn and the first to step up and help local residents.

She is a very hard working, dedicated young lady. I would love to see her have the opportunity to receive a scholarship as I feel it would assist in her continuing education, where she would apply it back into the community.

If you would like to contact me, please reach out for any questions at 403-947-3275 and I would be happy to hear from you.

Regards,

Trevor Snyder
President, Midcountry Automotive



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Red Deer Polytechnic

Name of Program: Social Work Diploma

Entry Date of Program:

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 2025



Scholarship Award
2025 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

June 29, 2025
Date

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Version 2025

Kneehill County Scholarship
June 2025

One of the best ways to ensure a flourishing community in the future is by investing in young people's lives early. Rural communities like Kneehill County are full of potential. In order to fully unlock economic growth and create a surplus of opportunities for youth and adults alike, the county must take the appropriate steps to foster local entrepreneurship and career development. With the right support systems in place, small towns can thrive and attract people to stay, build, and invest in the community. Entrepreneurship does not benefit merely the individual, but it also strengthens the entire region by keeping talent and vital resources local. By focussing on local education, Kneehill County could become a rural hub of innovation and endless opportunity.

One of the most pragmatic steps that Kneehill County, or other municipalities, could take to foster youth entrepreneurship and career opportunities is broadening youth employment and internships. Numerous rural students struggle when it comes to finding work and relevant job experience near home, which pressures them to look elsewhere for suitable employment opportunities. This often leads to these youths leaving the community altogether. By partnering with the municipal government, local farms, businesses, and family owned businesses, the county could offer structured summer positions for high school and college aged youth. This program could include roles in agriculture, administration, child care, trades, and public services. These experiences could also help students discover their passions and build confidence in their future endeavors. Taking advantage of programs like Alberta's Summer

Temporary Employment Program, could help Kneehill County subsidize wages while maintaining the goal of giving youth meaningful and hands-on experience. These p[[opportunities would strengthen resumes, develop life skills, and create local connections that encourage youth to stay and invest in the community long term.

Another promising way Kneehill County could support youth entrepreneurship is by orchestrating a shared pop up business trailer. Countless teens and young adults have great business ideas - selling baking, art, handmade jewelry, or offering small services- but don't have the resources to open a store or market themselves. A mobile trailer or something similar could rotate through farmers markets, and community events, which would give youth a real-world opportunity to test and grow their businesses. This low risk environment could allow them to gain customer service skills, learn about economics hands on, and become comfortable being seen as young professionals. Providing this kind of integral support could make the difference between dreams being given up on, or turning that dream into a successful business. With just one small trailer or booth and some support from local mentors, kneehill county could open the door to dozens of small businesses run by youth.

Kneehill County can also foster entrepreneurship by offering technology-focused mentorship and training. In today's day and age, digital skills are essential for starting and maintaining a successful business. Building websites, managing social media platforms, and online payment platforms are all skills required in order to thrive economically. Kneehill County could partner with local schools, businesses, or libraries to offer workshops and compacted classes on basic coding, graphic design, and digital marketing. By making these resources available locally, residents would have better access to modern tools without needing to

relocate. Integrating various experts into the said classes could inspire young people to explore digital careers or launch their own stand up businesses. Educating youth in these areas would give residents more tools to compete in a modern economy.

Every rural municipality has the opportunity to transform its strengths into economic opportunities. Kneehill County will thrive by investing in youth, supporting local businesses, small business creations, and improving digital access. The County can build a community where people want to live, work, and grow. Although these initiatives will take effort to implement, they will undoubtedly have lasting impacts on the lives of individuals and the economy of the region. These initiatives would not only boost the local economy, but they would also encourage a culture of innovation and pride in staying local. With the right support in place, rural communities can become just as vibrant and full of opportunity as any city.

Kneehill County Scholarship

Lifeguard of three years

Throughout the years I've spent working as a lifeguard at Three Hills Aquatic Centre, as well as other facilities in the surrounding area, I have helped educate members of the community on water safety, generalized first aid measures, and what responsible behaviour in and around bodies of water looks like. Also, by working in public service, I have honed my skills in customer service. As a lifeguard, I help to maintain our pool through thorough cleaning regimes, safety checks, and by educating new staff on proper procedure.

Swimming Instructor (Water Safety & Lifesaving Society Certified)

Being a swim instructor allows me to impact the community in tactile ways. Allowing kids to become more comfortable in the water, improving overall swimming ability through practice and instruction, and teaching valuable lessons regarding water safety and responsible decision making around water.

Academic Achievements

Although my high school career has had its ups and downs, I have always strived to be a role model for my peers. In grade 11, I completed my English 30-2 and earned the top grade in the class. This year, I achieved top mark in Social 30-2. High school has taught me perseverance, motivation, and discipline.

Great Kids Award Recipient

When I was younger, I received The Great Kids Award, which is a provincial award given to children and youth who show strong character and positivity impact their communities. The plaque on my wall is a constant reminder to strive to make a difference in my community as I get older.

Church Volunteer (Sunday School & youth events)

I have also spent countless hours volunteering for different programs and ministries led by my church. Everything from helping orchestrate youth group events, participating in child care, organizing games and helping with activity set up have been responsibilities I've upheld. This has taught me how to serve in a community service oriented environment.

Camp Volunteer (led games, activities, supported youth)

Throughout my teenage and adult years, I volunteered at a variety of different summer camps. Camp Little Red, Camp Evergreen, Pioneer Bible Camp and Pine Ridge Bible Camp are some of the organizations I've volunteered and devoted my summers to. These positions helped me build leadership skills, confidence, and mentorship. During the time I spent working at Pine Ridge Bible Camp, I worked primarily with at-risk youth. Hearing their stories, though many were devastating, was an incredible eye opener as to how well off we are living in communities like and around Kneehill County.

Tutor and support for younger siblings

At home, I support my younger siblings by teaching them academic subjects, helping them with their homework, and helping them study before tests. This responsibility has helped me grow in communication, patience, and teaching.

Case Aid Summer Student with the Government of Alberta

Over this summer, I will be working with the Government of Alberta as a case aid summer student. Although this position is generally targeted specifically towards college students, they offered me the job. I will be actively working with people with disabilities. Connecting them with resources, helping organize meetings with various social workers, and assisting in filing and record keeping will be some of my many responsibilities.

Organized the Painting of a Community Mural

Every year at my highschool the graduates put together a committee to complete a mural that is displayed in Three Hills. I headed up this committee and organized meetings, confirmed supplies were collected, and worked directly with the vice principal of the school in order to complete this project.

Accepted into Red Deer Polytechnic Social Work diploma program

In the fall I will be attending Red Deer Polytechnic to pursue a career in social work. I plan on going into addictions and mental health, and I am devoted to making a difference in Kneehill County once I receive my diploma. I plan to eventually get my bachelor's degree so that I can create even more change in small communities.

Valerie Leuf

June 29, 2025

Kneehill County Scholarship Program
Box 400
Three Hills, AB
T0M 2A0

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend _____ as the recipient of the Kneehill County Scholarship.

I have known _____ since her early childhood where her bright smile and warmth characterized her.

_____ work with children as a lifeguard and swimming instructor allows her to interact with kids and teenagers and bring that same warmth and caring to those she serves in the Kneehill community. I have experienced _____ as someone who is willing to go the extra mile to help others at her work.

_____ is a positive contributor to our community through her volunteer work. She shows interest in and compassion for kids. I believe _____ will work hard to bring positive change to the children and families she serves in the area of social work.

I hope you will consider _____ for the Kneehill County Scholarship as I know she has great potential to have a great impact in our community through her future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Valerie Leuf

Paige Mueller

June 28, 2025

Dear Kneehill County,

It is with great pleasure and wholehearted support that I write this letter of reference for _____ as she applies for the Kneehill County Scholarship program. I have had the privilege of knowing _____ and her family for nearly a decade, during which I have served as her mentor, youth leader, friend, and supporter. It has been a joy to watch her grow into the kind, compassionate, and capable young woman she is today.

This fall, _____ will begin her post-secondary journey at Red Deer Polytechnic, pursuing a diploma in Social Work. Her natural empathy, dedication to others, and deep commitment to community service make her well-suited for this career path. _____ care for people is not only evident, it is her greatest strength and most impactful contribution to both her school and community.

_____ greatest contribution to her community is her ability to connect meaningfully with people of all ages and to act decisively on their behalf. I've seen her engage confidently and empathetically with everyone—from young children to seniors offering not only a listening ear but also practical support and leadership. Alia brings a steady presence, sharp awareness, and genuine care that consistently leave a lasting and positive impact.

_____ currently works at our community pool, where she contributes to the safety and enjoyment of residents. Her involvement extends beyond her job to include volunteering with church groups, youth activities, and summer camps. In all these roles, she is reliable, compassionate, and deeply invested in the well-being of others.

I am confident that _____ will continue to make significant contributions to her community, wherever life takes her. Her drive to serve, paired with her future education in social work, will equip her to make meaningful, lasting change in the lives of those around her.

Sincerely,

Paige Mueller



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: Red Deer Polytechnic

Name of Program: Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree

CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input 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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Version 2025



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

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2025-06-24

Signature of Applicant

Date

Kneehill County Essay Topic:

“What initiatives do you think a rural municipality like Kneehill County could take to foster youth entrepreneurship and career opportunities within the region?”

To foster youth entrepreneurship and expand career opportunities within Kneehill County, the municipality must take a multi-faceted and community-driven approach. In a rural setting like Kneehill County, where youth may feel they need to leave to find opportunity, it's essential to create pathways that inspire and support them right where they are. By investing in mentorship programs, youth-focused networking events, and collaborative training initiatives with local industries, the county can create meaningful engagement for young people while helping build a stronger local economy and community for the future. These approaches not only provide youth with knowledge and hands-on skills but also help instill a sense of belonging and purpose within their home region.

One area to begin with is offering mentorship program opportunities, where various local business owners, small corporations, and multi-generational agricultural farming operations open their doors to youth. These mentorship programs would allow young people to learn about day-to-day business operations, discover a variety of career opportunities, and network with other businesses and professionals both within the county and across the province. These real-world experiences would not only increase career readiness but also help youth make more informed decisions about their futures. A potential opportunity, for example, could be for youth to be mentored by staff working at the Sunterra Greenhouse just outside of Acme. This experience would give them firsthand exposure to large-scale greenhouse operations, including sustainable agriculture practices, quality control, logistics, and technology used in modern food production.

It also introduces them to career paths in science, agri-business, and environmental stewardship fields that are growing both locally and globally.

Another valuable avenue for mentorship could focus on the tourism sector, which remains an underutilized but promising opportunity within Kneehill County. With natural landmarks like Dry Island Buffalo Jump and Horseshoe Canyon, youth could work alongside Kneehill County employees or tourism operators to develop new and innovative ways to promote tourism in these areas. For example, they might assist with designing interpretive signage, creating content for social media, helping organize community events, or developing guided tour experiences. These mentorships would not only provide valuable marketing, communication, and organizational skills but also encourage youth to take pride in their local heritage. Encouraging innovation in tourism could also support seasonal job creation and local economic diversification. It would give young people a chance to see how entrepreneurial thinking can apply to fields beyond traditional business models.

The next facet that would be beneficial in promoting entrepreneurship and career opportunities would be for Kneehill County to help organize and facilitate networking events, bringing together youth from all reaches of the county. These events would serve as crucial opportunities for youth to meet potential employers, engage with experienced entrepreneurs, and hear firsthand about different career journeys and business challenges. A county-supported “Career Discovery Day” could feature a wide range of organizations, including agricultural companies such as Nutrien, Sunterra, and various feedlot and large-scale farming operators. Local businesses and health services, such as CBI, BCP, Kneehill Medical Clinic, and Alberta Health Services, could also participate, showcasing careers in trades, healthcare, administration, and more. Such an event would allow youth to ask questions directly to professionals, gather

insights into various industries, and understand the qualifications, certifications, and pathways required for each career. These interactions can also help demystify professional environments and show youth that successful, fulfilling careers are available within their own communities. To enhance the impact, these events could include hands-on activities, panel discussions, mock interviews, and breakout workshops. For rural students, especially those without easy access to post-secondary or career planning resources, these events could be life-changing, providing the exposure and confidence needed to plan for the future.

In addition to mentorship and networking, Kneehill County could work collaboratively with local industries and businesses to help fund and support training programs for youth in areas such as trades, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing sectors that are vital to the county's long-term economic stability. These programs could be offered during summer breaks or as part of dual-credit partnerships with nearby high schools and colleges. They could include both foundational and advanced training, introducing youth to areas like basic business operations, marketing, finance, and digital tools for entrepreneurs. Hosting these workshops locally would eliminate transportation barriers and ensure that more youth can participate.

Entrepreneurship workshops could also be created in collaboration with local business owners and economic development agencies to help youth understand how to start and sustain a small business. These sessions could cover everything from writing a business plan and securing funding to managing cash flow, customer service, and online branding. Real examples from local success stories would help make the learning feel relevant and attainable. Additionally, Kneehill County could provide support to businesses that are willing to offer apprenticeship and internship opportunities. For instance, CBI could host youth interested in welding and steelwork, while local mechanic shops could offer apprenticeships in vehicle repair and diagnostics.

Similarly, large-scale farms could provide opportunities for youth to engage in animal care, crop production, farm technology, and agri-tourism. These types of placements not only help youth build job-ready skills but also expose them to entrepreneurial mindsets within these industries.

In conclusion, by investing in youth through mentorships, networking events, and practical training opportunities, Kneehill County can lay the foundation for a more vibrant and self-sustaining future. These initiatives will help keep youth engaged, skilled, and motivated to stay in the region and contribute to its economic growth. Encouraging young people to explore entrepreneurship and diverse career paths within their own communities not only benefits the individuals but also strengthens the social and economic fabric of the county. With the right supports and opportunities in place, Kneehill County has the potential to become a model for rural innovation and youth empowerment in Alberta.

List of contributions

- Opened breakfast program in Carbon School for kids.
- Assisted elderly people in lodge and nursing homes.
- Member of ASA during high school.
- Volunteered in elementary end during my high school spares.
- Assisted a kid in elementary school after high school before attending post-secondary.
- Coached a woman's hockey team.
- Volunteer clean up.
- Volunteered for the lion's club.



Golden Hills School Division

Acme School

Box 326, Acme, Alberta T0M 0A0

September 12, 2024

It is with great pleasure that I provide this character reference letter for . My name is Pam Wade. I am the Lead Teacher at Acme School and was French teacher for three years.

is a very kind, hard-working young lady. Her record of attendance was exemplary. She was always on task during class time and showed responsibility in keeping up with her homework and completed all assignments on time and to the best of her ability. She received the French 30 Award in grade 12 for a high level of class participation as well as the highest academic average. is well respected by her teachers, classmates and teammates and was an asset to our school and community.

was a key member of the school's volleyball teams for three seasons. She showed her commitment to this team by attending the twice weekly practices, fitness training sessions, league games and the weekend tournaments. On many occasions, her coaches expressed that she is a very coachable player and how impressed they were with level of effort at every practice and game. She was able to successfully balance extracurricular and school activities through her commitment to both as well as her strong work ethic and organization skills.

In the year following graduation, accepted a position at the school as a teacher's assistant. In this capacity she worked one on one with a student in Kindergarten with varying behaviour and cognitive needs. She did an exceptional job with this student and always carried herself in a professional and caring manner.

is one of the kindest, most considerate young ladies I have ever had the opportunity to teach. She consistently displays the qualities of a thoughtful, contributing citizen.

Sincerely,

Pam Wade

Lead Teacher

Acme School

September 17, 2024

Marci Steen

To Whom It May Concern:

is an energetic, self-assured young woman who graduated from Acme School in 2023. I have watched her develop into a confident, driven person and I look forward to seeing her many accomplishments in the future.

I have known for many years, most recently as a colleague at Acme School where I am the Senior High Math teacher, and she worked as an Educational Assistant in the Kindergarten room. Prior to that, I taught Math 30-1, and I was also her junior high teacher at Carbon School.

is a very driven young woman with an incredible work ethic. I am struck by her confidence and willingness to seek support when needed. would come and work with me after school on math topics to reinforce the learning that took place during class.

I have also had the pleasure of watching as a competitor in hockey, volleyball and badminton. It is clear that she is not only a committed athlete, but a leader as well. She leads by example and it is clear that her attitude and commitment positively affect those around her.

is a very community minded young woman. I have seen her step up and help out, not only in our school community, but within the service clubs in our village as well. She was an integral part of our breakfast program at Carbon School, preparing snacks and connecting with younger students. A few years ago, I needed a high school student to help out with the costumes and filming for a drama production at Carbon School. I reached out to and she obliged. She took time out of her schedule to support us, and she also acted as a mentor for some junior high students. She is always willing to volunteer her services, or she will certainly respond when asked.

will be successful in her life because of her positive attitude and strong work ethic. People are drawn to her because of her charisma and smile. I am confident she will see success in whatever she chooses in the future, and I wish her the best.

Yours truly,



Marci Steen
Senior High Math Teacher
Acme School



Scholarship Award
2025 Application Form
POLICY #15-5

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 4:30 P.M.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Name of Institution you plan on attending: University of Alberta

Name of Program: Bachelor of Science, Pharmacology Major

Entry Date of Program:

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.



Scholarship Award
2025 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

June 27, 2025
Date

Community Roots to Grow the Future: Youth Involvement in Kneehill County

Rural municipalities like Kneehill County face unique challenges when it comes to retaining youth and providing meaningful career opportunities. The migration of young people to urban centers for education and employment can lead to a loss of innovation, labour, and long-term community investment. The slower pace of life and the more traditional customs seen in rural farming communities like Kneehill County can come off as unappealing to some younger people yearning for excitement and novelty, discouraging potential migration. However, this challenge also presents a powerful opportunity: by fostering youth entrepreneurship and supporting local career development, Kneehill County can not only retain its younger population but also ensure a vibrant and sustainable future. With Kneehill's small, tight-knit, and neighbourly community, people can easily come together to support one another: whether it's by rallying behind a new business, sharing resources, mentoring local youth, or volunteering their time to help ideas grow into something meaningful. To bring this dream from theory to reality, the municipality can focus on three key initiatives: launching specific grant programs, developing mentorship and skills training programs, and leveraging local industries for hands-on career opportunities.

Investing in large-scale infrastructure is costly, complex, and takes a significant amount of time to build and effectively establish. To avoid the aforementioned unnecessary complexities and more efficiently support aspiring innovators in the community, Kneehill County could directly aid young entrepreneurs through a Rural Youth Business Grant Program. This initiative would provide seed funding to individuals in a young age demographic who have a viable business idea that contributes to the local economy. Whether it's a mobile mechanic service, a custom farming operation, a home-based bakery, or a digital freelancing business, these grants would give young people the financial push needed to take the first step. The application process could include submitting a basic business plan and participating in a brief interview or pitch. In addition to funding, successful applicants could be paired with local mentors who provide guidance in budgeting, marketing, and legal requirements. This type of program keeps things accessible and practical, two things that are especially important for youth who may not have formal business experience or connections.

Beyond funding, young people need guidance and access to relevant skills. Kneehill County could develop a structured mentorship network connecting local professionals, farmers, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople with interested youth. These mentors would provide invaluable advice, encouragement, and networking opportunities, helping youth understand both the rewards and realities of local careers. An approach such as this has been made available to

students in the school division, providing them with the opportunity to tour local businesses, meet with professionals, and even engage in workshops to develop their skills and better understand the specific industry they are exploring. If opportunities such as those were replicated and extended to a wider demographic, not just students, more youth would get the indispensable opening to develop themselves professionally and spark new passions. Additionally, the County could collaborate with regional school divisions and online education providers to deliver targeted skills training in areas relevant to the region, such as agriculture technology, trades, business management, and digital literacy. Emphasizing practical, hands-on experiences such as internships, apprenticeships, and co-op placements would also provide real-world exposure while strengthening ties to the community.

Kneehill County's economic foundation in agriculture, energy, and small business presents a wealth of opportunity for youth employment and innovation. By aligning entrepreneurship programs with these sectors and leveraging already developed local industry, the municipality can help youth see viable futures within their home region. For instance, young entrepreneurs could be encouraged to explore agribusiness ventures such as local food processing, vertical farming, or precision agriculture technologies. The county could offer small startup grants or tax incentives for youth-led projects that support sustainability or innovation in these fields. Hosting annual "Rural Innovation Days" could showcase local business models and provide networking opportunities between youth and industry leaders. Additionally, the county could support digital and remote work initiatives. With proper infrastructure, such as broadband internet and remote workspaces, young professionals could launch careers in tech, design, or marketing while still living locally. This approach would not only diversify the local economy but also appeal to youth who seek a rural lifestyle without giving up modern opportunities.

Retaining and empowering youth in rural communities is not only a matter of economic necessity but also a commitment to the long-term vitality of places like Kneehill County. By investing in a youth business grant program, building strong mentorship and skills training networks, and aligning opportunities with local industries, the county can create an environment where young people feel supported, inspired, and confident in building their futures at home. These ventures could also potentially attract new faces with new ideas to the area, beckoning them to settle and establish themselves in the community. Kneehill County has always been an area overflowing with small town hospitality; where neighbours are not simply neighbours, but friends. This interconnectedness is invaluable, and leveraging it will foster youth empowerment and economic growth while staying true to the local values that keep the community strong. With strategic planning and community collaboration, Kneehill County has the potential to become a model for rural youth development across Alberta and beyond.

Contributions, Leadership Activities and Personal Achievements:

Minister's Youth Council, 23/24 Term

The Minister's Youth Council (MYC) is a student engagement initiative from the government of Alberta. The MYC consists of ~40 junior and senior high students, selected by a written application and oral interview, to work with Minister Demetrios Nicolaides and other high level education officials and provide perspectives on a number of education topics.

During my time on the council I focused specifically on equal opportunity and inclusion for rural students. I was the first student from Golden Hills School Division to hold a spot on the council and one of the few students from a rural farming community that year, being heavily outnumbered by students from urban centres like Calgary and Edmonton. I shared my experience being from a small rural school and pointed out the disparities I had noticed between urban and rural schools. There were three weekend long meetings spanning the ten month term, and each culminated in me giving a presentation directly to the Minister of Education and other professionals sharing possible solutions to problems rural schools were facing and stressing the importance of focusing attention and funding on the small, often neglected communities that needed it most.

Volunteering with Distress Centre Calgary

Became a trained youth crisis line responder, answering calls, SMS, and online chats from teens, kids and parents across Alberta experiencing mental health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteered specifically in the ConnecTeen branch, which focused on a peer-to-peer support model.

I was one of the few volunteers from a rural community, and until I began volunteering everyone had to work on-site except when COVID restrictions were in place. When COVID restrictions were lifted and volunteers were expected to return to office, I petitioned to allow volunteering from home to make volunteering more accessible to those outside of Calgary. My request was granted, giving more people from areas outside of the city the possibility to volunteer.

Involvement with the Three Hills Arts Academy

I was involved in many THAA productions from 2018-2024, beginning with acting and later volunteering my time to other support roles like costuming. In my later years I became a mentor figure for younger children in youth productions, helping them become comfortable amidst nerves and find passion in the arts.

Academic Honours

Trochu Valley School's Class of 2025 Valedictorian. Honour Roll 2016-2025, gold in ELA 10-1 and 20-1, gold in Social Studies 10-1 and 20-1, and second highest marks overall in the 22-23 school year. Other honours expected after graduation.

Legion Literary Contest

I have made it a point of mine to participate in the Royal Canadian Legion Literary Contest every year as I find the Legion's mission to be one of great importance. I have placed in the top two in the essay division since 6th grade. In 2024 I was asked to read my winning essay from the previous year during Remembrance Day services in Trochu and Huxley, which I accepted.



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



June 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my sincere pleasure to write this letter of reference in support of application for post-secondary scholarship funding. I have had the privilege of being Associate Principal and High School Social Studies teacher during her time at Trochu Valley School, and I can confidently say that she is one of the most dedicated and academically driven students I have encountered.

consistently demonstrates an outstanding commitment to learning. Her work ethic is exemplary— approaching each assignment with diligence, attention to detail, and a genuine desire to excel. Whether working independently or in group settings, Desiree displays initiative, critical thinking, and a willingness to go above and beyond expectations.

Academically, has maintained a high standard of excellence throughout the years, always achieving Honour Roll status each term. not only demonstrates strong intellectual ability but also shows the determination and resilience required to meet the challenges of post-secondary education

Beyond academics, is respectful, responsible, and an active participant in the community. From her participation in the local Arts Academy to her contributions at the Trochu Museum, consistently displays maturity and leadership, serving as a positive role model for those around her

I wholeheartedly recommend for the Kneehill County Scholarship. I believe she will not only thrive in her studies but also give back in meaningful ways to her chosen profession and community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Chantalle Van Otterloo".

Chantalle Van Otterloo
Associate Principal
Trochu Valley Scho



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



June 4, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for _____, a Grade 12 student at Trochu Valley School and who proudly served as our 2025 class Valedictorian. Throughout her time at Trochu Valley, _____ has exemplified excellence in academics, integrity, and a passionate advocacy for marginalized and underserved groups.

_____ has always demonstrated exceptional dedication to her academic achievement. Her intellectual curiosity and strong work ethic have consistently placed her at the top of her class. She approaches her studies with enthusiasm and a genuine desire to learn, setting a high standard for herself and others.

Beyond her academic accomplishments, _____ is a person of outstanding character. She is known for her honesty and integrity and she actively works to support and uplift those who may face societal barriers or lack representation. Her advocacy reflects her commitment to fostering a more inclusive community.

In addition to her academic excellence, _____ is a talented performer in the performing arts. Her involvement in community productions demonstrates her creativity, discipline, and ability to shine on stage.

I am confident that _____ will continue to excel in her future endeavors and will make meaningful contributions wherever she goes. She is a driven, compassionate, and talented individual whose potential is boundless.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Jody Lammle
Principal
Trochu Valley School

2025 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) | |
|-----------|--|----------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Olds College Agriculture Management | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | 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% |
| | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| 2 | University of Calgary Biological Sciences | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | 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 | |
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| | | Councillor # 7 | | Councillor # 7 | | Councillor # 7 | |
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| | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| Applicant | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| 3 | University of Lethbridge Education & Sociology | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | |
| | | Councillor # 2 | | Councillor # 2 | | Councillor # 2 | |
| | | Councillor # 3 | | Councillor # 3 | | Councillor # 3 | |
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| | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| 4 | Olds College Agricultural Management-Production | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | |
| | | Councillor # 2 | | Councillor # 2 | | Councillor # 2 | |
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| | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| Applicant | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| 5 | Red Deer Polytechnic Social Work Diploma | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | |
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| 6 | Red Deer Polytechnic Nursing Degree | | Score | | Score | | Score |
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| | | Essay (1-10) | | Contributions (1-10) | | Letters of Reference (1-10) | |
| 7 | University of Alberta Bachelor of Science, Pharmacology Major | | Score | | Score | | Score |
| | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | | Councillor # 1 | |
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