

Whitepine Grange Scholarship Judging Criteria

There are Five parts to completing the Whitepine Grange Scholarship Application: Your application must be typed. You will be judged on how well you follow directions and submit all documents requested. Each part is allotted a maximum number of points for completion. For the entire completed scholarship application process, you have the opportunity to earn a maximum of **310 points**.

Part 1: Basic Information (50 points)

With your completed application you must **submit three listed references** with contact information (these are not letters of references).

Part 2: Academic Scholarship (40 points)

With your completed application you must submit a **current formal transcript** and a **college/school acceptance** to the program of your choice. Include **school contact information and student ID**.

Part 3: Activities/ Future Plans (50 points) (You may use separate sheets of paper)

To complete the application form you must list **extracurricular and community service activities** and **submit a brief future plan statement**. Make sure you include any **awards and honors and/or leadership roles where applicable**.

Part 4: Essay (60 points) (You may use separate sheets of paper)

In a minimum of 500 words describe how your further education will contribute to agriculture and/or rural living. You will be judged on typed layout, grammar and spelling, organization and presentation, idea, future plans clearly stated and benefit to Agriculture and/or rural living clearly stated.

Part 5: Interview (110 points)

(You must attend the interview to be eligible for the scholarship)

You will be contacted for a personal interview by the Whitepine Grange. During the interview you will be asked eight impromptu interview questions. At the end of the interview, you will be given an opportunity to add additional comments. Each applicant will be asked the same eight questions by the same person. You are expected to appear as you would for a job interview. At the beginning of the interview, you are expected to briefly introduce yourself to the selection committee. Interviews traditionally take approximately 20 to 25 minutes. The questions are designed to put a face behind the application, get to know you as a person, give you a chance to advocate on your own behalf, and facilitate confidence in awarding this scholarship. You will be judged on attire, poise, verbal expression, and presentation (sensible, honest and direct).

Whitepine Grange Scholarship Information

INTRODUCTION/INFORMATION

The Whitepine Grange #102, located in Trout Creek, will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a 2026 Sanders County high school graduating senior who best meets the criteria outline below. A GED from an alternate institution or accredited Home School document is also acceptable. The Whitepine Grange is a subordinate of the Montana State Grange and National Grange, an organization that has existed for the past 160 years for the purpose of **promoting agriculture and supporting rural agricultural communities**. **For this reason, only applicants who are planning an agriculture-based higher education or related field that will support rural communities will be considered. Vocational schools, trade schools and colleges will all be acceptable institutions of higher learning.**

All applicants must have proof of enrollment or acceptance in the school of their choice for the 2026 fall semester and attach the acceptance document to this application. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances that slightly delay the start of the student's school term. Payment will be made directly to the qualified school in which the applicant has chosen to be enrolled.

JUDGING CRITERIA

(See the following attached document "Whitepine Grange Scholarship Judging Criteria").

Applicants must complete the scholarship application provided with this letter and provide all supporting documentation as requested in Parts 1 through 3 of the application.

Applicants must also submit an essay with a minimum of 500 words, with the following theme: (Reference Part 4)

"How My Further Education Will Contribute to Agriculture and/or Rural Living Communities"

Applicants must attend a personal interview to qualify for this scholarship.

A date will be announced after the due date, **April 15, 2026** for the scholarship application (Part Reference Part5)

All Applications shall be postmarked by **April 15, 2026**. Applications must be on time and complete. Mail the completed application packet to: Whitepine Grange Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1313, Trout Creek, MT 59874.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD

The award winner for 2026 will be announced by **May 1, 2026**.

Questions? Call Whitepine Grange, 406-827-0102 and leave a message. Or email with your question to whitepinegrange@gmail.com.

Website: www.whitepinegrange.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064541689010>