

REVISED 2026 MTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must be enrolled in an accredited university, college, trade school, or recognized professional certificate program in the following fields or related branches of those fields.

- A. Natural Resources Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries, etc.
- B. Biology
- C. Ag. Science or Engineering
- D. Animal Science/Medicine (Veterinarian)
- E. Other

* If you or your family members are currently members of the MTA, your field of study may be in any area of interest. If you are not a member, your field of study must fall into one of the specified categories listed below.

* Applicants unaffiliated with MTA or the sport of trapping are encouraged to apply for any available scholarship; however, preference points will be awarded to those with MTA affiliation.

* Transcripts are not to be included with this application. Official transcripts/Certificate of Completion will be required of successful applicants upon award of scholarships.

*Please refrain from identifying individual MTA members by name in your autobiography to eliminate potential bias. Recommendations are not required and should not be included in your application or narrative paper.

Note to previous applicants/award recipients: If you are reapplying for award consideration, be certain you are using the utilizing the updated application for the upcoming school year and not simply submitting an application and narrative from a previous year. Invest the time to reflect and write an original narrative for consideration this cycle. You may naturally include some of the same information, but the narrative particularly needs to be fresh and original in overall content. Those who simply forward previously submitted materials will be evaluated accordingly and potentially be rejected entirely.

AI-generated submissions will not be accepted and will not be considered; however, grammar-assisted software and spell-check type applications are permissible and encouraged for proofreading before final submission. Applications and accompanying narratives must be received/postmarked between March 15th and April 1st exclusively. Award announcements will be made on or about April 15th annually beginning in 2026.

You may choose to submit these by regular mail or electronically, but handwritten narratives will not be accepted. However, the application itself may be filled out legibly by hand, and reproductions of the original application are acceptable. Be certain to identify your scholarship application as such by including "MTA Scholarship Application" in the subject line if submitting electronically or writing "MTA Scholarship Application" or similar wording on the envelope if providing your submission by traditional mail service.

Shawn Johnson

MTA Education Coordinator

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Greetings Students,

The MTA Scholarship Committee is looking forward to reviewing your application and personal narrative for scholarship grant consideration. By following the guidelines provided below, you will greatly increase the chances of receiving one of our scholarship awards.

Please take this opportunity seriously! Regarding the scholarship application and the narrative as a two-part job application. Be mindful that this is a competitive process. Consequently, detail and content are extremely important. Follow the directions provided and make every effort to present yourself as someone who desires to be seriously considered.

Share yourself with the Committee and give us a brief glimpse into your life, as this will be the only means we have to get to know you at some personal level, since there is no follow-up person-to-person interview in our review process.

Although identifying an MTA member by name on the application itself is required to verify membership status, resist the urge to "name drop" in the narrative portion and diligently guard against doing so unintentionally. We don't solicit references or recommendations from MTA members on behalf of candidates, so substitute member names for "neighbor", "teacher", "wife/husband", etc.

Your narrative should be an autobiographical short story and not simply a list of personal accomplishments and awards received. Although some of these items may be part of your narrative, it shouldn't be read like a formal resume or an informal open letter to an individual or organization. These extremes defeat the intention of the narrative portion.

In contrast to most organizations' scholarship programs, awards are not based on previous academic performance but rather on the presentation of the individual. Your narrative

should give the Committee a sense of who you are as an individual, where your interests lie, and what you view as important in life. Feel free to tell us a story about an experience in your life, outdoors, trapping, etc.

What did this experience mean to you? Any life lessons? Personal stories give the Committee a better sense of you as an individual and what kind of impact life experiences have had on your formation as an adult.

Last of all, have others read/review your application/narrative for accuracy, clarity, and overall content before submitting. Misspellings, typos, missing words, wrong words, etc., can negatively add up in the final evaluation between you and other candidates also under consideration.

If you're serious about landing the job you're applying for, take the time to do it to the best of your ability.

Keep your skinning knives sharp,

Shawn

Minnesota Trappers Association
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2026 MTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Full Legal Name

Address

DOB (XX-XX-XXXX) _____ Contact Info (phone/email) _____

Are you a current MTA Member? ___ Yes ___ No

OR

Is a member of your family an MTA member? _____ Yes* _____ No

*If yes.

Member Name/Hometown

Applicant School of Enrollment/address

Degree or Certificate Program (please specify)

Number of Credits/Weeks

In addition, each applicant shall submit a single-spaced narrative paper, no more than three pages in length, addressing each of the following areas in no specified order:

1. Your past experiences: In autobiographical form, introduce yourself, placing particular emphasis on those formal and informal learning experiences that have had the most impact on becoming the person you are today.
2. Have your personal outdoor experiences influenced your environmental views? Please be specific.
3. Have you been personally exposed to modern trapping at some point in your life? If so, was it a positive or negative experience? What was your level of participation?
4. Do consumptive wildlife activities, such as fur trapping, contribute positively to modern society, aside from any potential direct economic benefit to an individual?
5. In a predominantly urban society, what do you view as the greatest obstacles to sound furbearer management and trapping advocacy? Can these be overcome?
6. If you eventually end up in a career you've geared your education toward, would you anticipate advocating for outdoor pursuits such as hunting and trapping in your sphere of influence in the workplace? How might this advocacy assist in fostering a clearer understanding of the importance of fur trapping in this modern world?

