

Michigan First Credit Union 2025 Scholarship Competition Official Rules

These Michigan First Credit Union 2025 Scholarship Competition Official Rules (“Official Rules”) are specific to the Michigan First Credit Union 2025 Scholarship Competition (the “Competition”). By participating in the Competition, each Entrant agrees to be bound by these Official Rules, which will be posted and available at **MichiganFirst.com**.

Entrants further agree to be bound by the decisions of Sponsor, which decisions shall be final and binding in all respects. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify Entrants and/or Applications that fail to comply with these Official Rules. The Competition is void in whole or in part where prohibited by law.

Competition Sponsor

The Competition Sponsor is Michigan First Credit Union (“Sponsor”), with Scholarship Awards funded by the Michigan First Foundation.

Entry Period

The Entry Period begins at 9:00 a.m. on April 7, 2025, and ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 2025.

Category options for entering

- High School Senior Video
- High School Senior Essay
- College Student Video
- College Student Essay

Entrant Eligibility

High School Entrants must:

- Be a member in “good standing” with Michigan First Credit Union
- Be a legal resident of the United States of America, age 17 or older
- Be currently attending high school as a senior anywhere in the United States and having a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- Plan on attending a U.S. Department of Education accredited college, university, 2-to-4 year community, vocational or technical college full time in the fall of 2025
- Have/will have applicable education expenses payable to the college or university the student will be attending

College Entrants must:

- Be a member in “good standing” with Michigan First Credit Union
- Be a legal resident of the United States of America, age 17 or older
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0

- Be a graduate or undergraduate student currently attending or planning to attend a U.S. Department of Education accredited college, university, 2-to-4 year community, vocational or technical college full time in upcoming fall 2025 semester. (Previous high school graduates must provide a copy of their senior or GED transcripts. Veterans must provide a copy of their honorable discharge papers. Graduate students must provide proof of undergraduate diploma)
- Have/will have applicable education expenses payable to the college or university the student will be attending

NOTE: Entrants may enter only once, and in only one category.

Ineligible Entrants

The following persons are not eligible to participate in the Competition: Current paid employees, retirees, and representatives of Michigan First Credit Union and/or its affiliates, subsidiaries, related companies, agents, associates, dealers, representatives, advertising and promotional agencies, and their immediate family members (including spouse, children, step-children, parents, step-parents, parents in-law, brothers and sisters).

Scholarship Awards

Entrants meeting eligibility requirements have the opportunity to win up to **\$10,000** in scholarship funds per academic year (“Scholarship Awards”).

NOTE: The number of Scholarship Awards and the amount of each Scholarship Award will be dependent on the number of eligible Entrants and the sole discretion of Sponsor.

Application Requirements

Entrants must submit either a VIDEO (maximum length of two minutes) or an ESSAY (minimum of 200 words to maximum of 500 words in length) answering the question posted on www.MichiganFirst.com at 9:00 a.m. on April 7, 2025.

Videos must be filmed horizontally - not vertically.

All video and essay applications (“Applications”) must meet all of the following criteria in order to be eligible for consideration in the Competition:

- Be intended for a family audience and therefore not contain, depict, or refer to any crude, vulgar, obscene, sexually explicit, disparaging, discriminatory, offensive, illegal, or otherwise unsuitable language, activity, or other content (all as determined by Sponsor in its sole and absolute discretion).
- Not contain, depict, or refer to any content that disparages or refers negatively to Sponsor, the Competition, or any other person or entity (all as determined by Sponsor, in its sole and absolute discretion).

- Not conflict with any of Sponsor’s core values, or otherwise be objectionable to Sponsor (as determined by Sponsor in its sole and absolute discretion).
- Not contain any content violative of any law or any third party’s rights (including privacy, personality/publicity, and/or intellectual property rights).
- Not promote, depict, or refer to any commercial enterprises other than Sponsor.
- Any use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited. Essays must be composed solely by the individual without the aid of artificial intelligence or automated writing tools. Essays found to be in violation of this rule will be disqualified from consideration.
- All videos must meet all guidelines and criteria imposed by Kaleidoscope (scholarship management platform) with respect to its rules and regulations.
- If a video shows any individual in such a way that the individual can be recognized, Entrant must obtain written consent from that individual, in a form satisfactory to Sponsor, to permit Sponsor to copy, display, transmit and otherwise use the video. Entrant must provide Sponsor with the original copy of that consent upon Sponsor’s request.

In the event of a dispute, Applications shall be deemed to be submitted by the authorized account holder of the e-mail address associated with the entry.

Sponsor will not be responsible for any lost, delayed, misdirected, illegible, incomplete, damaged, or undeliverable Applications, or any delay or failure to transmit, process, receive or consider Applications.

Judging Period

May 12, 2025 – June 16, 2025

The Applications of all eligible Entrants will be reviewed by Sponsor’s Selection Committee, and will be rated on the following criteria:

- Effort, quality, and creativity of Entrant’s Application.
- How thoroughly the question is answered.
- Community involvement, volunteer activities and passions of the Entrant.

All decisions of the Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship Award Recipients will be contacted via email by a Michigan First team member using the email address provided on their application. Scholarship Award Recipients will be notified on or about July 18, 2025. Selected Scholarship Award Recipients who do not respond within seven business days of notification may be disqualified.

Disbursement of Scholarship Awards

Scholarship Award Recipients must provide proof that they are enrolled full-time during the fall 2025 semester by submitting a class schedule. Once Sponsor has received proof of enrollment, Scholarship Award Recipients will receive a disbursement payable in their name, as well as in the name of the appropriate department/office of their educational institution.

- No disbursements will be issued solely in the Scholarship Award Recipient's name or sent directly to the Scholarship Award Recipient.
- Scholarship Award funds will only be sent for use during the fall 2025 semester. Any unused funds after this period shall be forfeited.
- Disbursements will occur only during the designated disbursement period: Fall 2025 semester, unless under the discretion of the educational institution and its policies to split the funds between other semesters.
- If the Scholarship Award funds are not utilized as intended within the designated timeframe, or if the educational institution returns the funds to Sponsor outside of the disbursement period, the Scholarship Award Recipient shall not be entitled to any reimbursement, reissuance, or alternative compensation.
- If circumstances arise that are beyond the control of the Scholarship Award Recipient and not covered under the terms of the Scholarship Agreement, such cases will be reviewed at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- Scholarship Award funds shall be disbursed directly to the Scholarship Award Recipient's educational institution within five (5) business days of the Scholarship Award Recipient confirming their enrollment and providing required financial aid office information. Once Scholarship Award funds have been sent, it is the responsibility of the Scholarship Award Recipient to coordinate with their educational institution to ensure the funds are properly applied to their account.

Consent to Release Information and Images

By participating in the Competition, Entrants irrevocably and exclusively assign all copyright, without limitation of time, place, medium, support or language, to Sponsor and waive all legal rights to their Application in favor of Sponsor. All Entrants acknowledge that Sponsor shall have the unrestricted and exclusive right to use the Applications for any purpose, including but not limited to, publishing Applications in an electronic form on the Michigan First website and/or social media for promotional purposes without further compensation.

By participating in the Competition, each Entrant:

Grants Sponsor the right to use Entrant's name, photo, mailing address, city, state, telephone number, and email address ("Personal Information") for the purpose of administering the Competition, including but not limited to contacting and announcing Scholarship Award Recipients and fulfilling Scholarship Awards;

Grants to Sponsor the right to use their Personal Information for publicity and promotional purposes relating to the Competition, in any and all media now known or hereafter devised, without further compensation unless prohibited by law; and

Acknowledges that Sponsor may disclose Entrant's Personal Information to its third-party agents and service providers in connection with the Competition.

Sponsor will use Entrant's Personal Information only for the purposes identified herein and will protect Entrant's Personal Information in a manner that is consistent with Sponsor's Privacy Policy.

Conduct

Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to disqualify any Entrant found to be, directly or indirectly:

- violating these Official Rules;
- tampering or attempting to tamper with the application or selection process or the operation of the Competition;
- violating the terms of service, conditions of use and/or general rules or guidelines of Sponsor;
- acting in any unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person; and/or
- acting in any manner that violates the spirit of the Competition.

Indemnification

By participating in the Competition, Entrants release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Michigan First Credit Union and Michigan First Foundation, their respective employees, directors, officers, affiliates, agents, Selection Committee members and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from Entrant's participation in the Competition or receipt or use of any Scholarship Award.

Sponsor shall have no liability for any loss or damage of any Applications entered in the Competition or for any other loss or damage resulting directly or indirectly from Entrant's participation in the Competition.

Discontinuance of Competition

If for any reason Sponsor cannot carry out the Competition as planned, for reasons natural, man-made, or technical (including as a result of, but not limited to bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, infection by computer virus or any other cause that corrupts, impairs, or affects the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of the Competition), Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, modify, extend, suspend, or otherwise discontinue the Competition. In such event, Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, determine Scholarship Award Recipients from among the eligible Applications received up to the time of the impairment or cancel the Competition in its entirety.

Compliance with Law: Arbitration of Disputes

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of Entrants or Sponsor in connection with the Competition, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the substantive laws of the State of Michigan and applicable federal law. Any dispute arising between Sponsor and any Entrant or Scholarship Award Recipient and/or any dispute concerning Sponsor’s administration of the Competition shall be subject to arbitration in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Binding Arbitration and Class Action Waiver- Resolution of Disputes by Arbitration provisions in the Michigan First Credit Union Membership and Account Agreement. The Competition is void where and to the extent prohibited by law.

Amendment of Official Rules

Sponsor reserves the right to amend these Official Rules at any time. Sponsor disclaims any responsibility to notify Entrants and/or Scholarship Award Recipients of any aspect related to the conduct of the Competition.

In the event of any discrepancy or inconsistency between these Official Rules or other statements contained in any Competition-related materials, including but not limited to the application, point of sale, print or online advertising, these Official Rules shall prevail, govern, and control.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

By signing below, I _____ certify that I have read and understand these Official Rules. I agree to abide by and be bound by these Official Rules.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____