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## **SCHOLARSHIP BACKGROUND**

First Harvest Credit Union College Scholarships are awarded to college-bound high school seniors. Scholarship awards up to \$1,000 are available for the 2023-2024 academic year. These scholarships are paid directly to the chosen educational institution.

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## **ELIGIBILITY**

The applicant must be a high school senior and the student or a parent/guardian must be a member of First Harvest Credit Union. Member must be in good standing. Scholarship funds must be used for tuition at an accredited college or university by January 31, 2024.

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## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Eligible students must complete this application. **No photocopied applications will be accepted.** A student may enter only one application.

1. The signed application, along with your essay, must be submitted with:

- **An official high school transcript.**

Note: The transcript must contain a cumulative numeric grade average (0 - 100) or grade point average (0 - 4.0) as of the end of the most recent marking period.

- **A written reference from one of your high school teachers.**

Note: The reference should be placed in a sealed envelope, labeled with your name. Your teacher should sign his or her name over the seal on the envelope. We recommend that you provide your teacher with a labeled envelope. (Example: Scholarship Reference for Jane Smith, Anytown High School)

2. Return the application, essay, transcript and reference to the credit union by the application deadline. **If any portion of your application is incomplete or any supplemental materials are not included, your application will not be considered.**

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## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Applications are reviewed by an independent third party who has no knowledge of First Harvest Credit Union account balances or account histories. Applications will be evaluated based on five categories: (1) academic performance; (2) teacher recommendation; (3) extra-curricular activities; (4) community service activities; and (5) a personal essay.

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## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Application and all supporting credentials must be returned to First Harvest Credit Union no later than **Friday, April 28, 2023**.

Applications and supporting materials can be returned to any First Harvest Credit Union branch or mailed to:

**First Harvest Credit Union**  
**P.O. Box 5530**  
**Deptford, New Jersey 08096**  
**Attn: Marketing Department**

*If mailing your application, please keep in mind that the application must be **received** (not postmarked) by April 28.*

*Employees and board members of First Harvest, their spouses and immediate family members, volunteers, agents and contractors are not eligible to enter.*

*All scholarship questions should be directed to [Marketing@FirstHarvestCU.com](mailto:Marketing@FirstHarvestCU.com). Branch employees and Contact Center representatives do not have access to scholarship information.*

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## NOTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

All students who submit applications for consideration will be notified of the final decision via email and/or regular mail by June 30, 2023. The guidance staff at schools of scholarship winners will be notified as well.

Winning scholarships must be claimed within 30 days of receiving notification. If no response is received by First Harvest Credit Union within 30 days, the scholarship will be forfeited.

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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant will not be considered unless all information is completed in full and all requested documentation is provided. Please type or print clearly, and answer the following questions completely. If more room is necessary, additional pages may be added.

Name .....

Street Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

Telephone # ..... Alternate Telephone # .....

Email .....

Name(s) of First Harvest member(s) in your family .....

How are they related to you? .....

Name of college or university you plan to attend .....

High School ..... Graduation Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Honors and Awards .....

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GPA: ..... Weighted or unweighted: .....

Extra-Curricular Activities (teams, clubs, etc.); please include the year(s) you participated

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Community Service Activities (volunteer activities outside of school); please include the year(s) you participated

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Leadership Positions (for school activities or community organizations)

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Employment; please list place(s) of employment, how long you have worked there, and number of hours per week you worked, on average

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Educational and career goals

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## **ESSAY/PERSONAL STATEMENT**

To complete your application, please answer the following essay question. Your answer should be between 500 and 700 words, and it should be printed on a separate piece of paper. Handwritten responses are allowed, but points will be deducted from your essay score.

***Essay Topic:***

Credit unions are financial institutions that are committed to having a positive impact on their communities. How have you had a positive impact on your community? Do you have any plans to serve your community while you attend college or once you graduate? How will a scholarship from First Harvest Credit Union help you achieve those goals?

### ***Certification and Release***

The information below must be completed before the applicant can be considered for a scholarship.

***I certify that the information contained in this application is true, complete and accurate.***

***I authorize the release of this information to confirm or verify this application.***

***If selected to receive a scholarship, I give First Harvest Credit Union permission to use my name and/or likeness in promotional materials, with no limitation, with no further compensation.***

***I release First Harvest Credit Union and its agents and vendors from liability of any nature.***

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# TEACHER REFERENCE

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Dear Teacher,

The above-named student is applying for a scholarship from First Harvest Credit Union. Each applicant must submit a recommendation from a high school teacher. Please complete the questionnaire below and add any applicable comments. Please place the recommendation in an envelope, seal the envelope, and sign your name over the seal before returning it to the student. The student must return the material to First Harvest Credit Union by **April 28, 2023** to be considered for the scholarship. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 1. Participation in Discussion (Self-Initiated)

- \_\_\_ Always involved, often initiates discussion
- \_\_\_ Usually participates
- \_\_\_ Often participates
- \_\_\_ Occasionally participates
- \_\_\_ Seldom participates

## 2. Involvement in Classroom

- \_\_\_ Very high in all activities
- \_\_\_ Often active in class activities
- \_\_\_ Somewhat active, politely attentive
- \_\_\_ Distracted, seldom participates
- \_\_\_ Greatly inattentive

## 3. Pursuit of Independent Study

- \_\_\_ Considerable study and major project(s)
- \_\_\_ Considerable study or major project(s)
- \_\_\_ Some study and minor project(s)
- \_\_\_ Some study or minor project(s)
- \_\_\_ No evidence of independent study

## 4. Evenness of Performance

- \_\_\_ Consistent, varies no more than one mark
- \_\_\_ Occasionally varies more than one mark
- \_\_\_ Uneven, often varies two marks
- \_\_\_ Erratic, performance fluctuates greatly

## 5. Critical Questioning Attitude

- \_\_\_ High level of independent thinking
- \_\_\_ Moderate level of independent thinking
- \_\_\_ Mild level of independent thinking
- \_\_\_ Minimal critical thinking
- \_\_\_ Little to no independent thinking

## 6. Depth of Understanding

- \_\_\_ Excellent insight
- \_\_\_ Good understanding
- \_\_\_ Some insight
- \_\_\_ Little insight
- \_\_\_ Poor understanding

## 7. Personal Responsibility

- \_\_\_ Always accepts fully
- \_\_\_ Usually accepts fully
- \_\_\_ Partially accepts
- \_\_\_ Sometimes refuses
- \_\_\_ Often refuses

## 8. Consideration for Others

- \_\_\_ Always considerate of others
- \_\_\_ Usually considerate
- \_\_\_ Sometimes considerate
- \_\_\_ Often inconsiderate

Comments (*feel free to attach another page if necessary*) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Official School Email \_\_\_\_\_

(First Harvest will only contact you if we find it necessary to confirm that you provided the recommendation.)

*Please place your recommendation in a sealed envelope and sign your name over the seal before returning to the student.*