

Copper River Watershed Project



Scholarship Application Packet 2026

Deadline: April 5, 2026

For more information, contact Kim Casavan
424-3334, operations@copperriver.org

Also available online at www.copperriver.org

Who can apply?

Any graduating senior seeking continuing education who can explain how their current education goals will benefit the economy, culture, and/or environment of the Copper River watershed may apply. Examples include: pursuing a degree, certificate, or trade in resource management, business management, tourism/hospitality, education, public policy, environmental science, GIS, hydrology, etc. Applicants may be graduating from high schools in the Copper River watershed, homeschool students from the watershed, or graduating seniors that have significant ties to the region.

Scholarship Award Information

A total of two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded: one to a graduating student from the Copper Basin, and one to a graduating student from the Cordova area, dedicated in memory of Ken Hodges. Home school students in the region and students who have significant ties to the region are also eligible to apply. CRWP scholarships are a one-time award, and money will be sent directly to the educational institution that you will be attending.

Selection for Scholarship Awards

The committee made up of CRWP board members from up and downriver communities will review the applications using uniform review criteria (see pg. 4 of application packet). Judging is based on application only, and personal associations or prior knowledge of any applicants are not taken into consideration. A committee of downriver representatives will review upriver applications, and a committee of upriver representatives will review downriver applications. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Application and Award Timeline

April 5, 2026 deadline: Applications must be **postmarked, submitted directly or emailed** to the CRWP office no later than April 5, 2026. Applicant will be notified by the scholarship contact (email or phone) to confirm when an application is received.

Cordova scholarship award:

May 16, 2026: Award announced during the Cordova High School graduation ceremony.

Copper Basin scholarship award on one of the following dates:

May 12, 2026: Award announced during the Slana High School graduation ceremony.

May 13, 2026: Award announced during the Upstream Learning graduation ceremony.

May 14, 2026: Award announced during the Kenny Lake School graduation ceremony.

May 15, 2026: Award announced during the Glennallen High School graduation ceremony.

For scholarship recipients currently outside the region, awards will be announced by May 30, 2026.

How to apply:

The following is a checklist of required application materials that you must submit in order to be considered for a CRWP scholarship. Remember, incomplete scholarship applications

will not be considered. All materials will be held strictly confidential and only viewed by the scholarship contact and review committee. Typed and legible, handwritten submissions will be accepted, and both electronic or hard copy submissions will be accepted. Electronic submissions must convert all pages to PDF format before submission.

- 1) **Cover Page:** Complete the required fields on pg. 3.
- 2) **Resume:** Your resume should provide a detailed explanation of your objectives, skills, education, employment, hobbies and interests and should **include any work experience, volunteer work, or extra-curricular activities** you have participated in.
- 3) **Letters of Recommendation:** Attach two (2) recent letters of recommendation from your teachers, advisors, coaches, mentors, or persons with whom you have worked. Letters must describe your character and likelihood to pursue and succeed in a field that will positively affect the economy, culture and/or environment of the Copper River watershed.
- 4) **Essay:** Write an essay that addresses the following:
 - a) What in your life has influenced you to want to pursue continued education?
 - b) What degree or certification do you plan to pursue and how will it have a positive effect on the economy, culture, and/or environment of the Copper River watershed?
 - c) Explain how your connection to the Copper River region has led to your decision to pursue this field of study.
 - d) Essay format: 500-600 words. If typed, double-spaced, size 12 font, 1-inch margins.
- 5) **Transcript:** Attach copies of your most current high school transcript that includes your GPA. If your transcript is not available at the time of submitting your application, print out an unofficial transcript and have your advisor or guidance counselor sign it.
- 6) **Letter of Acceptance:** Please attach a copy of your acceptance from college/school/university/vocational institute.

NOTE: If no qualified applications are received from each region (Copper Basin and Cordova), the Committee reserves the right to forego awarding one or more scholarships in a given year, or to award more than one scholarship to qualified applicants from one region.

Send Completed Applications to:

Mail: Copper River Watershed Project
Scholarship Program
PO Box 1560
Cordova, AK 99574

E-mail to: operations@copperriver.org
Drop off: CRWP, 511 First St., Cordova

Applications must be postmarked, submitted directly or emailed to the CRWP office no later than April 5, 2026.

**Copper River Watershed Project 2026 Scholarship Program
Cover Page**

Personal Information:

Your Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

For applicants outside the watershed, circle one region where you have a significant
connection: COPPER BASIN CORDOVA

Explanation of connection: _____

CRWP involvement:

Are you currently a member of the CRWP (circle one)? YES NO

Have you participated in CRWP watershed education activities (circle one): YES NO

Be sure all CRWP activities are listed out on your resume.

Academic Information:

Name of High School: _____ Graduation date : _____

I plan to pursue a degree or certification in: _____

My unweighted GPA is: _____ and (if applicable) my weighted GPA is: _____

Scholarship Delivery Information:

If awarded a scholarship, please send my check to the following educational institute to
which I will be attending:

Name of institute: _____

Mailing address: _____

Scholarship Review Criteria

1. Application Presentation (15 points)

- a. Is the application coherent and with correct spelling and grammar(5 points)?
- b. Are all components current and up to date (5 points)?
- c. Is essay within required 500-600 word length (5 points)?

2. Applicant Classroom Effort (10 points)

- a. Maintained passing grades consistently as demonstrated with GPA (5 points)
- b. Transcript demonstrates pursuit of challenging and diverse course work (5 points)

3. Letters of Recommendation (15 points)

- a. Do they provide insight into the applicant's skills?(5 points)
- b. Do they provide insight into the applicant's likelihood of success in a field that will positively affect the economy, culture and/or environment of the Copper River watershed? (5 points)
- c. Do they support the applicant as a suitable recipient of a scholarship? (5 points)

4. Essay (30 points)

- a. Does it address the following points:
 - √ What in their life has influenced them to want to pursue higher education? (10 points)
 - √ What degree do they plan to pursue and how will it have a positive effect on the economy, culture, and/or environment of the Copper River watershed? (10 points)
 - √ Explain how living in the Copper River region has led to their decision to pursue this field of study. (10 points)

5. Community and CRWP Involvement (30 points)

- a. Is this student involved in diverse community activities (10 points)
- b. Has the student demonstrated their commitment to the Copper River watershed and its resources through participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities (10 points).
- c. Has the applicant participated in CRWP programs or volunteer events (10 points).

Letters of Recommendations Rubric (15 points)

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score
Insight into Applicant's Skills	Provides strong, clear, detailed examples of applicant's skills; shows mastery and unique strengths	Provides solid examples of skills and strengths	Provides some examples of skills; shows general strengths	Gives limited or vague examples which may lack relevance to this scholarship	Minimal reference to skills; lack of relevance to this scholarship	No evidence of skills	/5
Potential Impact on Copper River Watershed	Clearly explains how applicant is likely to contribute to watershed economy, culture, or environment	Gives good explanation of likely contribution; connection is mostly clear	Explains contribution in general terms, but connection may be unclear	Mentions contribution briefly; weak connection	Vague explanation of contribution; unclear relevance	No mention of potential impact	/5
Support for Scholarship Suitability	Persuasive and specific support for applicant as deserving recipient	Solid support with sound reasoning; fairly persuasive	Supports applicant; moderately persuasive	Provides limited support; reasoning weak	Weakly supports applicant with little reasoning	Does not support applicant	/5

Essay Scoring Rubric (30 points)

Criteria	10	8	4	0	Score
Influence on Pursuit of Higher Education	Clearly and thoughtfully explains personal, cultural, family, educational, or community experiences that motivated the pursuit of higher education; examples are specific, meaningful, and well-connected to their goals.	Describes some influences that led to the decision to pursue higher education, but explanation may lack depth, detail, or strong examples	Mentions influences in a vague or general way with minimal explanation or unclear connections to higher education goals	Does not clearly address what influenced the desire to pursue higher education, or response is missing or off topic	/10
Impact of Educational Goals on Copper River Watershed	Clearly identifies an educational goal and convincingly explains how it will positively impact the Copper River watershed's economy, culture, and/or environment; connections are logical, well-developed, and locally relevant	Identifies an educational goal and provides a general explanation of its positive impact, though connections to the Copper River watershed may lack detail or specificity	Mentions an educational goal but offers limited or unclear explanation of how it benefits the Copper River watershed	Does not clearly identify an educational goal or fails to explain its impact on the Copper River watershed	/10
Personal Connection to Copper River Region	Clearly and thoughtfully explains how experiences living in the Copper River region shaped the decision to pursue the chosen field of study; uses specific examples	Explains the influence of living in the Copper River region, but examples or connections to the field of study may be general or underdeveloped	Mentions the Copper River region but provides minimal explanation of how it influenced the choice of field of study	Does not clearly explain how living in the Copper River region influenced the academic or career decision	/10

Community and CRWP Involvement Rubric (30 Points)

Criteria	10	8	4	0	Score
Community Involvement	Actively participates in multiple diverse community activities; shows leadership and initiative	Participates in several community activities; involvement is consistent	Participates in a few community activities; but lacks focus or consistency	Little to no participation in community activities	/10
Commitment to Copper River Watershed	Demonstrates strong, sustained commitment through employment, extracurricular or volunteer work; clearly impacts the watershed	Demonstrates consistent commitment through activities; moderate impact	Some involvement but limited impact	No clear evidence of involvement or commitment	/10
Participation in CRWP Programs/ Events	Actively participates in multiple CRWP programs or events; evidence of leadership or high engagement	Participates in CRWP programs or events; engagement is consistent	Participates in CRWP programs/events occasionally	No participation in CRWP programs/events	/10