



COMPASS

CREDIT UNION

Helping members navigate their financial journey!

2026 Andrew Sharp Memorial Scholarship

1 Scholarship Available!

Compass Credit Union is proud to rename our annual scholarship program in honor of Andrew Sharp, whose dedicated service on our Board of Directors enriched our members, staff, and communities.

Beginning in January 2026, applications will be available at Compass Credit Union at 485 S State Street in Sparta and 115 S Stone Rd in Fremont, Michigan, and at compasscu.com/scholarship. Student applicants will be chosen based on academic standing, community service and a letter of recommendation. Along with these items, students are also asked to submit an essay. Under the Program, one (1) \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Available Scholarships:

One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior pursuing either a two- or four-year college degree, or an apprenticeship or certification in a selected field.

Program Guidelines & Priorities:

* Seeking graduating seniors with a record of volunteerism in the community in non-school sponsored activities and participation in extracurricular school activities.

1. Who is eligible to apply for the scholarship?

In order to apply, you must be a senior in high school. You must also be a member of Compass Credit Union (hereafter referred to as "the Credit Union") in good standing by February 28, 2026. If you are not a member, you may join the Credit Union by February 28, 2026, as long as you belong to one of our required fields of membership. Also, students who apply for the scholarship must have a minimum 2.5 GPA.

2. Who is not eligible to apply for the scholarship?

Anyone who is not a senior in high school and members not in good standing, as defined by the Credit Union policies and procedures. Also, employees, volunteers and immediate family of employees and volunteers are not eligible to apply.

3. If I win the award, but do not end up attending an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall, do I still get the scholarship?

No, you must verify with us that you are enrolled in an accredited college, university, or trade school for Fall 2026 to be granted the award. Otherwise, the award will be granted to a runner-up.

4. Do the scholarship application and materials have to be postmarked by April 17, 2026, or must they have arrived at the Credit Union by that date?

All materials are due at the Credit Union by April 17, 2026. If it is the last minute, please drop off your application and other required items at either Compass Credit Union location. Late applications will not be accepted.

5. How much is the award, and are there limits as to how I can spend it?

The award is \$2,000, and it must be used towards tuition, books, student fees or other qualified expenses.



6. What documents must be included with the scholarship application?

In order to be considered for the scholarship, we must receive all of the following from you:

- A completed scholarship application form
- A letter of recommendation
- A copy of your most recent academic transcript
- A list of extracurricular activities and honors
- An outline of your community involvement
- A brief, 1-2-page essay

7. How will the applications be judged?

First, we will verify that you are a member in good standing, and that you have submitted a completed application with all required accompanying documents. We will then evaluate each application and supplemental materials for the following:

- Solid academic performance and a minimum GPA of at least 2.5
- Commitment to being an active part of one's community
- Well-rounded interests as exhibited through extracurricular activities
- The ability to coherently and effectively answer the essay question in a thoughtful and skilled manner

8. Where can I turn in my completed application and materials?

You may drop off completed applications and accompanying documents at your local Compass Credit Union Office or you may mail them to:

- The Scholarship Committee
Compass Credit Union
485 S State St
Sparta, MI 49345

9. When will the winners be announced?

We will notify the winner in late April 2026.

* Scholarship funds will be paid **in July and August 2026 directly to the college, university or trade school** and not to the student. It will be the student's responsibility to submit to the CEO at that time an invoice for funds, student ID number and college, university or trade school information is required.

Please submit any questions to: operations@compasscu.com

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Please enter your answers.

1.	Last Name:		First Name:
2.	Mailing Address Street: City: State: Zip:		
3.	Daytime Telephone Number: () Email Address:		
4.	Month	Day	Year
5.	Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ (On a 4.0 scale) Attach proof of GPA. Your most recent school transcript is required.		
6.	Are you the first person in your family to go to college: YES ____ NO ____		
7.	Name and location of High School attending:		
8.	A. List any academic honors, awards, and membership activities while in high school: B. List your hobbies, outside interests, extracurricular activities, and school related volunteer activities: C. List your non-school sponsored volunteer activities in the community:		
9.	A. If you have decided on what college or trade school you will attend, please list school name: B. If not, list your top 3 choices:		
11.	Is your <u>parent or legal guardian</u> an employee of CCU? Yes _____ No _____		

14. On a separate sheet please type an essay (250 - 500 words) answering the questions below:

Describe how volunteer work or community service has shaped who you are today and what community service has taught you. Also, discuss in your essay any challenges or obstacles you have dealt with and overcome in life and how this will help you succeed in life.



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STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR STUDENTS

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner my picture may be taken and used to promote the Compass Credit Union scholarship program. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner, limited application information may be shared with third parties who may wish to contribute additional funds toward the scholarship.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to Compass Credit Union Scholarship policy, I must be present at any potential awards ceremony or Annual Meeting of the Membership in March 2026 to receive my scholarship award.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to the CCU Scholarship policy, it is my responsibility to remit to the CCU CEO the appropriate information for my scholarship to be paid directly to my educational institution for my first semester in 2026.

I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

I hereby affirm that this application meets the criteria set forth by this scholarship program and that I support this application to Compass Credit Union.

High School: _____

Contact information (email and phone) : _____

Signature of Guidance Counselor: _____ **Date:** _____

Checklist

- Application
- Essay
- Resume/Activity Sheet
- Letter of Recommendation
- School Transcript
- Member of CCU by February 28, 2026

MAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO THE COMMITTEE AT:

Scholarship Committee
Compass CU
485 S State St
Sparta, MI 49345

REMINDER:

The deadline for this application to be received by CCU is: April 17, 2026, 5:00 p.m.