

OCIA Nebraska
Organic Agriculture Scholarship Program Guidelines
October 2024

How to Apply for a Scholarship

Complete the attached forms (<https://www.nebraskaocia.org/scholarships>):

1. Scholarship Program Application form
2. Scholarship Reference letter form



Upon completion of both forms, they can then be submitted by:

Mail

OCIA Nebraska Program Administrator, Kim Mosel
86536 State Spur 45A
Page, NE., 68766

or by **email**

ociane1@yahoo.com

Any applications received **after April 1, 2024, will not be accepted**. Limit one application per person, regardless of method of entry. Applications in excess of this limit are void.

The Organic Agriculture Scholarship(s) are given annually to financially support higher education and vocational agriculture students with tuition and educational expenses in pursuing degrees or certificates in agriculture with emphasis in organic crop and livestock production, marketing, and/or processing. Each scholarship is for \$500.

The Program is sponsored, administered, and managed by the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) Nebraska Board. Scholarship applications will be judged and selected by the executive board from a pool of eligible applicants based on the criteria and eligibility requirements set out in this document.

Sponsor

The sponsor of the Program is OCIA Nebraska. Contact is Kim Mosel, Program Administrator, 86536 State Spur 45A, Page, NE., 68766, or ociane1@yahoo.com or (402) 620-2701.

Application Period

Applications for the Program must be received before 11:59PM on April 1, 2024.

Eligibility

Eligible Student: The Program is open to students who: 1) are FFA members that are high school seniors (public, private, or homeschooled) or full-time college students (enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours); 2) have at least a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) at the time the application is submitted; 3) agree to the terms and conditions outlined and 4) meet all eligibility requirements. In addition, applicants must be pursuing or demonstrate an intent to obtain a degree related to agriculture from a two- or four-year higher education program.

To be eligible, applicants must obtain endorsements from their FFA advisor or vocational ag instructor, and an Eligible Farmer as described below.

Eligible Farmer Endorsement: An eligible farmer must: 1) be 21 years of age or older at the time of the applicant's endorsement, and 2) be actively engaged in organic farming. A farmer is "actively engaged in farming" if they perform the work on the farm or hires and actively manages others to do so. An organic farm is a farm certified by a USDA approved organic certifier.

How to Apply for a Scholarship

The Program scholarship application is administered by the OCIA Nebraska Board. To complete the application, go to www.NebraskaOCIA.org/scholarship to download the guidelines and forms. The forms can then be submitted by USPS mail or email them to the Program Administrator. Any applications received after the end of the designed application period will not be accepted. All applications become the property of the Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned.

Limit one application per person, regardless of method of entry. Applications in excess of this limit are void.

Endorsements

Eligible students must obtain an endorsement for an Eligible Farmer to complete the student's scholarship application. The endorsement must include the endorsing farmer's name, current mailing address, email address, telephone number, number of years operating as an organic farmer, and a narrative writeup about the applicant. Eligible Farmers may endorse family and/or household members.

Eligible students must also obtain an endorsement from their FFA advisor or vocational ag instructor to complete the student's scholarship application. The endorsement must include the endorsing instructor's name, current mailing address, email address, telephone number, and other information including a narrative writeup about the applicant.

All endorsements become the property of the Sponsor and will not be acknowledged or returned. If the student he/she endorsed receives a scholarship award, the Eligible Farmer and/or instructor may be contacted for a photo and quote to promote the scholarship.

Scholarship Awards

Students from all counties in Nebraska are eligible to apply for a scholarship. A maximum of two scholarship can be awarded annually. Scholarships are not transferrable. No substitution of the scholarship or any portion thereof, is allowed, except at the sole discretion of the Sponsor. The scholarship has no retail value, and there is no income to be reported to the winner for tax purposes.

Conditions of Participation

By participating in the program, each applicant without additional compensation: (1) grants permission for the Sponsor to use his or her name, hometown name, picture, portrait, likeness, voice, biographical information, and comments made in connection with the scholarship in any and all advertising and promotional materials which may be offered by the Sponsor; (2) waives the right to review or approve any such use; (3) agrees that all media or other materials created by the Sponsor are the property of the Sponsor, including but not limited to any copyright therein; (4) agrees that the release of information about the winner may be made by the Sponsor (5) releases the Sponsor from any and all claims for libel, copyright, invasion of privacy or rights of publicity pertaining to such use.