

Akiptan Inc.
Okhíčhanye (O-KHI-CHAN-YE) Scholarship



2024 Application Packet

Akiptan Inc. is a Native American Community Development Financial Institution that supports Native Agriculture producers throughout Indian Country. Akiptan Inc. is committed to supporting the next generation of Native Agriculture Stewards and is pleased to offer our *Okhíčhanye* (O-KHI-CHAN-YE) Scholarship for the Fall 2024 semester. This scholarship prioritizes Native American high school seniors pursuing a degree that will support the Native Agriculture Industry. Fifteen (15) scholarships in the amount of \$2,000.00 each will be awarded.

Award amount: \$2,000.00

Number of scholarships to be awarded: 15

Scholarship opens: January 3rd, 2024

Scholarship closes: April 30th, 2024 at 4:00 pm MST

Notification of awards: Late April / Early May 2024

Eligibility:

1. Students must be a Native American high school senior graduating in the Spring of 2024 and attending college in the Fall of 2024.
2. Must be pursuing a degree that will be utilized within the agriculture industry. This can include but is not limited to business management, animal science, agriculture business, agriculture economics, horticulture, etc. Please see the list of degrees on our website.
3. Must submit Tribal citizenship documents or proof of descendancy of a federally or state-recognized American Indian tribe, Alaska Native Village or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander or descendant of Pacific Islander within the United States.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to the Native agriculture community.

For more information contact Dawn E. LeBeau, Program Officer at dawn@akiptan.org, or by phone at (605) 301-0581. Pilámayaye (thank you), we look forward to receiving your application.

Akiptan Inc.
Okhíčhanye Scholarship Application

Submitting Instructions:

1. Apply online by scanning the QR code below or clicking this link:
<https://shorturl.at/gGH12>
2. Download the application and submit it by email to dawn@akiptan.org
3. Download the application and mail your application to the Akiptan office (address is provided in the packet).



←— QR Code to online application

All emailed or uploaded documents must follow these naming instructions:
Last Name_First Name_Documentname

Examples:

Smith_Robbi_Application

Smith_Robbi_Essay

Smith_Robbi_LOR1

Smith_Robbi_LOR2

Smith_Robbi_TribalCitizenship

Smith_Robbi_HighschoolTranscripts

Smith_Robbi_Acceptanceletter

Printed applications must be submitted by the April 30th, 2024 at 4 pm MST, in one packet to the following address:

Akiptan Inc.

Attn: *Okhíčhanye* Scholarship

P.O. Box 858

Eagle Butte, SD 57625

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Document Checklist

- Completed Application
- Essay Questions
- Letter of recommendation 1
- Letter of recommendation 2
- Proof of Tribal citizenship copy
- Unofficial or official high school transcript copy
- College / Tech School / Vet Tech School Official Acceptance letter copy

Additional Information:

1. Applicants will be notified via email or by phone if they are selected and if they are not selected by late April / early May 2024.
2. Scholarship applicants will be evaluated and selected based on a rubric and point system by the Akiptan selection committee.

Upon selection for the scholarship award:

The following documents will need to be submitted by awardees to dawn@akiptan.org **no later than two weeks from the date of the notification of award.**

1. Review, sign and return Akpitan Inc. scholarship agreement
2. Enrollment Verification to University / College / Vo Tech for the Fall 2024 term or submit a copy of your official acceptance letter with student ID #
3. College ID # and Financial Aid Office address to University / College / Vo Tech
4. Short Biography (optional)
5. Media Release Form and a recent portrait (optional)

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Today's Date:		
Last Name:		
First Name:	Middle Name:	
Preferred pronouns (Ex. she/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/theirs):		
Date of Birth:		
Tribal Citizenship:		
Permanent Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email (all follow up correspondence will be sent here):		
Mobile Phone:	Home Phone:	
Current High School:	Graduation Date:	
High School GPA:		
College / University / Technical school you will attend:		
College Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Field of Study:		

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How did you hear about this scholarship opportunity?

- High School
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Email
- Friend / Community member / Native Agriculture Mentor
- Akiptan
- Other _____

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Essay Questions - Please type or neatly write your responses to these questions on a separate piece of paper and submit it with your application. There is no maximum or minimum word count, please type or neatly write what you find sufficient enough to thoughtfully answer the question. We do ask that the combined responses are not longer than three pages single spaced.

1. Personal statement, please describe your background and interest in agriculture?

2. Please describe what impact you hope to have in the Native Agriculture industry post-graduation?

3. What is your field of study and what sparked your interest in your field of study?

4. What community activities, sports, and volunteer efforts have you participated in (initiated or actively participated in), and name why these activities are important to you.

5. What would this scholarship mean to you, if you are selected?

6. Please name any additional information that you would like Akiptan Inc. to know. It is okay to leave this question blank if your previous answers covered everything. We wanted to allow a space for any additional information should there be some.

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Templates:

Letters of recommendation (LOR)

Please submit 2 letters of recommendation from a mentor, academic counselor or teacher with the application (These may not be requested from immediate relatives, i.e guardians, parents, grandparents, siblings). You are welcome to utilize the LOR template:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10friP-tLNZzCgHGJondlgLES97gi1J19nTwoxYg3bZ8/edit>

Acknowledgement:

All applicants will be considered following the eligibility guidelines. Akiptan will prioritize Native American high school senior students for this scholarship and shall not discriminate against an individual because of sex, color, national origin, cultural affiliation, physical handicap, pregnancy or parenthood, religious beliefs or practices.

By submitting your application, you acknowledge that all the information is true and accurate to your knowledge and you consent to having all disclosures provided or made available to you in electronic form and to Akiptan Inc. having full access to this information.

The application and required documents must be postmarked and received by email or mail no later than **4:00 pm MST on April 30th, 2024**. Only complete applications will be considered. Akiptan is not responsible for notifying applicants of incomplete applications, please ensure that you have included all documents previous to submitting.

For more information contact Dawn E. LeBeau, Program Officer by email at dawn@akiptan.org, or by phone at (605) 301-0581.

Pilámayaye (thank you), we look forward to receiving your application.