



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship

NF Michigan is pleased to announce the offering of The Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship to qualified students. This scholarship program was established in 2018 in memory of Austin McEwen Volkert of Rockford, MI. Funds were donated by family and friends of Austin and will continue through the generosity of future donors. Austin was a graduate of Lake Michigan High School in Grand Rapids and dreamed of becoming a police officer. He was a staunch law abider who was passionate about rescue dogs, finding the best slice of pizza, and was a fervent Chicago Blackhawks hockey fan. Austin is survived by his parents, Scott and Shelley Volkert, his older brother, Zack, his younger twin sisters, Emma and Claire, and his rescue dog, Winnie.

If you are a high school senior, or post high school student, with neurofibromatosis I, II, or schwannomatosis and you live in or attend a post-secondary school NF Michigan's service area you are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 academic scholarship from NF Michigan for the 2026-2027 school year. Recipients will be awarded based on the selection process below:

Timeline:

Application open: January 22, 2026

Application due: May 15, 2026

Awards announced: May 22, 2026

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify you must meet the following criteria:

- Diagnosed with NF or schwannomatosis
- Entering or currently enrolled in an undergraduate program - Associates, Bachelors, or Vocational as a full-time or part-time student (*part-time students must be enrolled for at least 6 credits to apply*)
- Live in NF Michigan's service area, or attend one of Michigan's colleges, tech training schools, or universities. (state of MI – including the U.P.)

Selection Process:

You will be evaluated based on character, community service involvement; including any NF related activities, and evidence of determination and persistence through difficulties related to living with NF. Upon receipt of your application, NF Michigan's Scholarship committee will conduct the following review:

- Applications will go through an initial review to ensure all information requested has been submitted by the deadline. If your application is incomplete or not on time, it will not be considered.
- Scholarship recipients will be selected by the committee based on criteria met. Individuals will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships for the 2026-2027 school year. *The number of scholarships awarded will depend on to the number of qualified applicants and the amount of funds available to award.*



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship

Along with your completed signed application the following is required:

- A letter from a physician certifying diagnosis
- A personal statement essay (see application for writing prompt)
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach or mentor
- An official HS transcript
- An acceptance letter from a MI institution of higher learning or confirmation of enrollment
- An official MI transcript (for those already enrolled in a post high school program)

Award Announcements:

Award recipients will be notified by email and a phone call by May 19, 2026

Applicants who are not selected will be notified by email or letter by May 30, 2026.

Scholarship checks will be made out to the college or school of attendance.

For questions regarding eligibility, please email Terri Rausch at: rausch.terri.m@gmail.com

CANDIDATE SUMMARY INFORMATION	
Name: Last, First	
High School Name and Address:	
Date of High School Graduation:	
College/University/School Name and Address:	
Academic Status for next school year: 2026-2027(freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, (FT or PT):	
Total Yrs.' remaining to complete degree, if applicable:	
Major:	
Annual tuition and fees for your college/university:	



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
Gender: Male Female Prefer not to answer	
Date of Birth:	
Home Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Telephone #:	
Email:	
Parents Names and Address:	

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Past/current community involvement (include year and any leadership roles): use extra pages, if necessary:



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship

Extracurricular activities/interests and work experience:
(include year and any leadership roles): use extra pages, if necessary

ESSAY QUESTION (on a separate page) Essay should be between 100-300 words.

1) Please tell us about your future goals, highlighting why you are applying for this scholarship and how you have overcome any challenges due to NF to reach your goals.

OPTIONAL:

Please provide any additional information you want the Committee to consider in evaluating your application.



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship



Austin Volkert Memorial Scholarship

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:

To be considered complete, all applications must include the following:

- ☐ Essay question response
- ☐ Letter of acceptance from your academic/vocational institution
- ☐ A letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or mentor
- ☐ Letter from a physician certifying diagnosis
- ☐ For entering freshmen - An official transcript from your high school and an acceptance letter or confirmation of enrollment from your academic/vocational institution
- ☐ For current college students – An official transcript from your college/university
- ☐ Completed application submitted by the due date

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information presented in my application is accurate and complete. I understand and agree that any inaccurate information, misleading information, or omission will be cause for the invalidation of any grant offered to me. NF Michigan may verify any, and all parts of my application materials. If NF Michigan awards me a scholarship, I give permission to publicize my name and brief biographical information. I also understand that it will be necessary to provide a current digital photo of myself for to NF Michigan, if I am selected as a recipient.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Each Winner grants NF Michigan permission to use his or her name, photograph, likeness, personal information and prize information in any media, including the Internet, for publicity, promotion, and other purposes.

EMAIL APPLICATION TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS BY **May 15, 2026**. Or complete the online application form on our website (www.nfmich.org) on or before May15, 2026.

Terri Rausch
mailto:rausch.terri.m@gmail.com