

2026 APWA Northern California Scholarship Program

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high-quality public works goods and services.

2026 Scholarship Awards:

APWA Northern California Chapter is pleased to announce it will be offering multiple \$1,000 scholarships to students considering a career in public works.

Submit via upload to: [2026 Scholarship Application Folder](#)

Rename application for "2026_Scholarship_Application_ [ApplicantLastName_FirstName.doc](#)"

Application Deadline: [March 31, 2026 at 9:00pm PST](#)

Applicant Requirements:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a University, Junior College, or Vocational School or are in their senior year of High School and will be pursuing continuing education.
- Applicants must provide proof of fall 2026 enrollment or, if in high school, a letter of acceptance.
- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Applicants must provide a copy of official transcripts (Sealed Copy not required).
- Scholarship recipients must attend one APWA event to receive the scholarship check.
- Applicants must reside within the geographic boundaries of the Northern California Chapter. This chapter covers eleven counties in northwest California: San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Humboldt, and Del Norte.
- Submission of the application package should include the following:
 - Completed Application Form
 - Completed Essay
 - Official Transcript
 - Proof of College or Vocation School Enrollment (Fall 2026).

Evaluation Process

- Applications will be evaluated by the APWA Northern California Chapter Scholarship judging committee, which will provide its awarding recommendations to the APWA Northern California Chapter Board of Directors. The Board will approve all scholarships awarded and decisions made by the Board are final.
- The judging committee and Board intend to award scholarships based on (a) academic excellence, (b) essay content, and (c) extracurricular activities.
- The APWA Northern California Chapter will notify scholarship winners by mid-July.

Essay

Public works is defined as the physical structures and facilities that are developed, owned, and maintained by public agencies to house governmental functions and provide water, power, waste disposal, transportation, and similar public services following established public policy.

Public works is a vast field and can encompass professions from compliance specialists to plumbers to engineers. This essay should demonstrate your understanding of what public works do for our communities, and why you are interested in a career involved with public works.

Essay formatting:

- Essay must be typed.
- 12-point font Times New Roman
- One-inch margins and in portrait format
- Double-spaced
- Maximum four (4) pages on 8 ½" x 11" paper

Essay Questions

1. Why are you interested in a public works career and how will your education relate to public works? Describe your field of study (or planned field of study) and how it relates.
2. What impact do you hope to make in your decision field or industry and how will this scholarship help you achieve that goal?
3. Describe a public works project or operation that has made a meaningful impact on you. If you haven't had any interactions with public works projects, please describe something you have done in the past year that has made a difference in your community.
4. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.