



**South Dakota Retailers Association**

P.O. Box 638 | Pierre, SD 57501 | [www.sdra.org](http://www.sdra.org) | (605) 224.5050 | [donna@sdra.org](mailto:donna@sdra.org)

**SDRA Scholarship Program - 2023-2024 School Year**

In 2022, six scholarships were awarded in amounts ranging from \$2,200 to \$3,400.

The number and dollar amount of scholarships awarded varies annually.

The scholarships are awarded in memory of former SDRA Executive Director Jerry Wheeler.

**Instructions**

- Please type or print your answers. The essay portion may be submitted via YouTube rather than in written format.
- High school students are eligible if they meet education requirements; see eligibility criteria (page 4).
- Electronic version: A fillable PDF version of this application is available at [sdra.org/scholarships.html](http://sdra.org/scholarships.html).
- Deadline: Completed application, references and grade transcripts must be emailed or mailed to the South Dakota Retailers Association by April 18, 2023; mailed applications must be postmarked by April 18, 2023.

**Name & Contact Information**

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ *(we will confirm receipt of your application via email)*

If a South Dakota Retailers Association Board Member has a job opening that they think would match your skills or interests, can they contact you? If yes, please check the box at the left.

**Scholastic Information**

In the fall of 2023, applicant will be enrolled in:

Technical college / Trade school / Certified professional training institute

University / College

School you plan to attend in the fall of 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

Location of school (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_

Your major field/s of study \_\_\_\_\_

Number of credit hours you will be taking in the fall of 2023 *(approximate)* \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated month and year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how many credit hours will you have completed by September 1, 2023?

\_\_\_\_\_ Technical college/trade school/training institute credit hours

\_\_\_\_\_ University/college credit hours

**Application Checklist**

Please check whether you are including the following with this application, or if they will be sent separately.

2 letters of reference (at least one from a business owner or business manager; do not provide a letter of reference from your parent)  Included  Will be sent separately

Most recent college, tech school or professional training institute grade transcript  Included  Will be sent separately

Essay (goals, personal challenge, accomplishments)  Included  Will be sent separately

## High School Education

High school you attended \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Month/year of graduation from high school \_\_\_\_\_

Obtained high school equivalency (such as a GED) Year \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

Provide names of post-secondary schools you are currently attending or have attended previously.

Technical Institute • Trade School • Certified Professional Training Institute • College • University	Attended (from - to)	Major

## Family

Please tell us in what occupation your parents/guardians are or were engaged (i.e. teacher, farmer, hardware store owner, bank teller, store clerk). For "place of employment", please provide the name of the company or agency the individual works/worked for or owns/owned.

1. Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

## Career Goals

Specific type of business you want to own, manage or work in \_\_\_\_\_

Position you plan to hold in that business \_\_\_\_\_

Where (city or state) would you like to be located? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to live and work in that city or state? \_\_\_\_\_

## Employment History

LIST YOUR CURRENT OR MOST RECENT JOB FIRST. Include full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal work. If job information doesn't fit in on box, you can continue information on the next line.

OPTION: You may submit a resume in place of completing this section.

Place of employment (Include name of business & city)	Type of business	Employment dates (from - to)	Your position or job duties

## Tell Us More About Your Goals (May Be Submitted Via YouTube)

TYPE OR PRINT on a separate sheet or sheets of paper. WORD LIMIT: 400 words per section.

**YouTube:** This part of the application may instead be submitted via YouTube.

**Time Limit:** 5 minutes total.

**If Submitting Via YouTube:** Please email the link to [donna@sdra.org](mailto:donna@sdra.org), and check the box below.

Submitting via YouTube

- Goals:** Please tell us about your plans for the future, such as:
  - Your career goals - be very specific about the type of business in which you are interested, and the position you want to hold.
  - Why do you want to be in the field you have chosen?
  - What persuaded you to choose this field of study?
  - Why is a career in retail or business important to you?
  - What skills do you possess that will help you reach your goals?
  - What job experience do you have that will help you reach your goals?
  - Where do you hope to be and what do you hope to be doing in 10 years?
- Personal Challenges:** What is the most difficult challenge or obstacle you have faced? How did you handle it?
- Accomplishments/Activities:** Please tell us about any special accomplishments in your personal, community or academic life, or involvement in school or community activities.

## 5 STEPS TO TAKE WHEN APPLYING

1. **Application:** Fill out the application (please type or print).
2. **Goals:** Type or print your goals, challenges and accomplishments -or- submit via YouTube and email the link to donna@sdra.org (see page 3).
3. **Transcript:** Obtain a copy of your most recent grade transcript.
4. **References:** Obtain two letters of reference. At least one must be from a person who currently owns or manages a business. (NOTE: A "Business Manager" of a school or other entity does not qualify as a person who owns or manages a business.)
5. **Send it in:** Submit completed application, grade transcript, goals and accomplishments information, and letters of reference to SDRA by the deadline.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

1. **Career in Retailing:** Applicant must desire a career in a retail or retail-related field.
2. **Type of School:** Applicant must enroll in a retail or retail-related course of study at a qualifying, accredited technical school, college, university, or certified professional training institute in the fall of 2023. Enrollment in an online degree program from a qualifying school is acceptable.
3. **Retail/Retail-Related Field of Study:** Examples of fields of study considered to be retail or retail-related include (but are not limited to): Accounting, Agribusiness (*retail agribusiness*), Apparel Merchandising, Auto Mechanics, Automotive Technology, Business Administration, Business Management, Collision Repair, Computer Science, Commercial Baking, Culinary Arts, Diesel Mechanics, Electrical Maintenance, Gemology, Heating/Ventilation, Hotel/Restaurant Management, Landscape Design, Pharmacy, Photography, Printing Industries, Refrigeration, Sales/Marketing Management, and Tourism Industry Management. (NOTE: this list is not all-inclusive.)
4. **South Dakota Education** - Applicant must meet one of these requirements:
  - have graduated from a South Dakota high school -OR-
  - have earned high school equivalency (such as a GED) in South Dakota -OR-
  - plan to attend post-secondary school in South Dakota
5. **Post-secondary Credits Requirement / Full-Time Work Experience in Lieu Of Education** - Applicant must meet one of these requirements:
  - have completed 24 or more credits from a qualifying college or university by Sept. 2023 -OR-
  - have completed 12 or more credits from a qualifying tech school or certified professional training institute by Sept. 2023 -OR-
  - we will consider full-time work experience in lieu of the education requirement
6. **Credit Hours:** Student must enroll in 12 or more credit hours of classes at a qualifying post-secondary school or online degree program for the fall of 2023. (Internships do not qualify.)
7. **Prior Recipients:** Previous recipients are eligible.
8. **SDRA Scholarship Committee:** Members of the 2023 SDRA Scholarship Committee, their spouses, and their children are not eligible.

## NOTIFICATION & PAYMENT

- **Recipient Announcement:** In July of 2023, all applicants will be notified by email or mail whether they have been selected as a scholarship recipient.
- **Payment:** Scholarship will be paid directly to the school. If a recipient changes schools or majors, SDRA must be notified prior to funds being disbursed. SDRA will determine whether the applicant remains eligible for the scholarship.

## BY SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION

The applicant certifies that they have answered all questions truthfully, and understands that the application and all accompanying materials may be confirmed by SDRA and will be used for the purpose of evaluation and selection by the Scholarship Committee.

### Mail completed application:

South Dakota Retailers Association  
P.O. Box 638 • Pierre, SD 57501

### Email completed application:

donna@sdra.org

### Deadline

Application and other materials must be emailed or postmarked by April 18, 2023

For more information, call  
605.224.5050  
-or- email donna@sdra.org

## FAQ

**Q: If I graduated from a South Dakota high school or received a GED in South Dakota, but I'm going to attend college or tech school in another state, am I eligible?**

Answer: Yes.

**Q: To be eligible, the application says I must be enrolled in a school in the fall of 2023. Do I have to already be enrolled at the time I submit this application?**

Answer: No.

**Q: Are high school seniors eligible?**

Answer: Students who are currently in high school are eligible if, by September 1, 2023 they will have at least:

- 24 university/college credits -OR-
- 12 credits from a technical college/tech school or certified professional training institute

Documentation - such as a grade transcript - must be provided with the application.