

South Dakota National Guard Scholarships

Suspense: 01 FEBRUARY 2026

The USAA Scholarship (SDNGEA & NGASD)

This scholarship endowment is made possible by the USAA insurance program. The purpose of the USAA scholarship is to encourage active enlisted members of the South Dakota National Guard, (Army and Air), and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. This objective is to be accomplished through annual award of the USAA Scholarship. **Scholarship will be awarded by the SDNGEA & NGASD at the Annual State Conference and may be in the amount of \$500 or \$1000 to be determined by USAA.**

The Dean & Edna Steinberg Scholarship (SDNGEA Only)

Dean and Edna Steinberg have been pillars of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and their Auxiliaries for decades. When Dean passed away in June of 2024, Edna created this Scholarship in his memory. **This \$2000 scholarship will be awarded, by the Enlisted Association at their Annual State Conference, to an Enlisted member or their dependents (children/stepchildren or grandchildren/step grandchildren with no regard to marital status or age) who have a 3.5 GPA or BELOW but not failing their curriculum. GED and high school equivalency certificates are accepted for this scholarship only.**

MG Duane L "Duke" Corning Memorial Scholarship (SDNGEA or NGASD)

This scholarship endowment is made possible by donations from the South Dakota National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations and is established in memory of Major General Duane L. "Duke" Corning's love and dedication for these associations and for his fidelity, dedication and unselfish service to his state, nation, and fellow man. The purpose of this memorial endowment is to encourage active/retired members of the South Dakota National Guard (Army and Air) and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. **Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded by the Enlisted/Officer Associations, at their respective Annual State Conference, for the Major General Duane L. "Duke" Corning Memorial Scholarship.**

CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship (SDNGEA or NGASD)

The CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship is awarded by Col (Ret) Bob and Shirley Mallow of Black Hawk, SD in remembrance of their son Darren who was an outstanding guard member whose life was cut tragically short by a fatal civilian helicopter accident in the summer of 1999. **One \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded by the Enlisted/Officer Associations, at their respective Annual State Conference, for the CW2 Darren R Mallow Memorial Scholarship.**

The First Command Scholarship (SDNGEA or NGASD)

This scholarship endowment is made possible by First Command Financial Services. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage South Dakota National Guard members and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. **Two scholarships will be awarded for \$1000, one to each of the Enlisted and Officer Associations, at their respective Annual State Conference. The Scholarships will be paid to the schools once attendance is verified.**

NGASD Scholarship (NGASD Only)

There will be four \$500 scholarships made possible by the South Dakota National Guard Officer Association. The purpose of the NGASD scholarships is to encourage active officers of the South Dakota National Guard (Army and Air), and their dependents to pursue degrees in higher education at an accredited institution of their choice. This objective is to be accomplished through annual award of the NGASD Scholarship. **Scholarships will be awarded by the Officer Association at the State Conference in the amount of \$500.**

**** All Scholarships will be awarded only AFTER attendance has been verified, in writing, by the respective institution.**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for any of the above scholarships, an applicant must be:

- **(ALL):** A graduating high school senior OR an individual enrolled or having intent to enroll in a post-secondary institution (undergraduate study only) on a full-time basis.
- **(USAA):** A current member or a dependent of a member of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association.
- **(Steinberg):** A current member or a dependent of a current member of the South Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association. Must have a 3.5 GPA or below but not failing their curriculum. GED and high school equivalency certificates are accepted for this scholarship only. There are no age or marital status limitations.
- **(Corning / Mallow):** A current/retired member or a dependent of a current/retired member of the South Dakota National Guard Officer or Enlisted Associations.
- **(Command):** A current/retired member or a dependent of a current/retired member of the South Dakota National Guard Officer or Enlisted Association.
- **(NGASD):** A current member or a dependent of a member of the South Dakota National Guard Officer Association.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To apply for the SDNG Scholarships, applicants must submit the following, in its entirety, by the posted deadline above.

- 1) A scholarship application form including the autobiography requested at the bottom of the application.
- 2) At least one letter of academic recommendation. This should be from a teacher, counselor, dean or professor addressing the applicant's academic achievements.
- 3) At least one letter of personal recommendation. This should be from a community leader, minister, elected official, supervisor, or unit commander (if applicant is a member of the SDNG) addressing the applicant's moral and personal traits, character and leadership abilities (Cannot be from a parent or anyone listed in #2 above associated with a high school or college).
- 4) An official high school and/or college transcript which indicates the applicant's cumulative grade point average.

Completed applications with ALL paperwork must be mailed and postmarked by **01 FEBRUARY 2026**, or they will be returned to the applicant. **DO NOT** have the official transcript or the letters of recommendation sent directly because your entire application packet must be sent under one cover.

The 2026 application packet must be postmarked by **01 FEBRUARY 2026** to:

Richard Buechler
1030 3rd Street Southwest
Huron, SD 57350