



APPLICATION FOR

Susan O'Brien Memorial Scholarship and The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Scholarship

SUSAN O'BRIEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Susan O'Brien was a shy, intelligent, yet athletic youth with a passion for basketball. After high school, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she completed her degree in science.

In 2008, Susan and her husband, Ron Woznow, co-founded The Family Food Research Foundation. The Family Food Research Foundation was later renamed The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation and shifted its focus to introduce Indigenous students to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs at universities. In her volunteer role as foundation administrator from 2009 to 2020, she facilitated 550 students' attendance at 10 different universities. Her commitment to the Foundation and our students was relentless and she worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and care of all participants.

Sadly, on January 18, 2022, Susan passed away suddenly. To commemorate Susan's hard work and dedication to The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation, our Foundation is offering one \$1,500 scholarship to an Indigenous student that has completed the VJKF Program each year for five years, starting in 2023.

Eligibility

- Student self-identifies as First Nations (status or non-status), Métis, or Inuit.
- Completed the VJKF Program in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 or 2027. (One scholarship will be awarded to a participant in the program each year.)
- Students are only eligible to apply in the year they graduate the VJFK Program.
- Students must be in either grades 11 or 12 to apply.
- Students must complete the scholarship application to be eligible.

Terms of Reference

- The scholarship is named the Susan O'Brien Memorial Scholarship.
- One scholarship will be offered to a student in each of five years, beginning in 2023.
- Each scholarship will have a value of \$1,500.
- The annual award winner will be recommended to the VJKF Board of Directors by the VJKF Executive Director. Students must have completed the one-week VJKF program.
- The basis of the award will be leadership potential as demonstrated during the annual week-long VJKF Program, passion for STEM, and essay response.
- Payment will be made when the awardee has begun attendance at a publically funded university or college, within two years of successfully completing grade 12. (Approved post-secondary institutions: <https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/our-members/member-directory/> A copy of student's university/college schedule will be required to prove enrollment.)
- A student is only eligible to receive this scholarship once.



THE VERNA J. KIRKNESS EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility

- Student self-identifies as First Nations (status or non-status), Métis, or Inuit.
- Completed the VJKF Program (this scholarship will first be awarded starting 2023. Graduates from prior years are not eligible to apply.)
- Students are only eligible to apply in the year they graduate the VJKF Program.
- Students must be in either grades 11 or 12 to apply.
- Students must complete the scholarship application to be eligible.

Terms of Reference

The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation will offer up to 20 scholarships per year to graduates of the VJKF Program.

- Starting in 2023, up to 20 scholarships will be offered each year to students who complete the VJKF Program that year.
- An individual can only receive this scholarship once.
- Each scholarship will have a value of \$500.
- Recipients must have participated in and graduated from one of our annual programs.
- VJKF Student Alumni must enrol on our website as a Kirkness scholar and then apply for this scholarship opportunity online or by sending in their application.
- Payment will be made when the awardee has begun attendance at a publically funded university or college, within two years of successfully completing grade 12. (Approved post-secondary insitutions: <https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/our-members/member-directory/> A copy of student's university/college schedule will be required to prove enrollment.)

First Name

Last Name

Mailing Address

Mailing City

Mailing Province

Mailing PC

Email Address

Phone Number

What grade are you in currently?

ESSAY QUESTION #1

Describe your experience at The Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program, which you have just completed, and the most interesting thing you learned. (Max 250 words.)

ESSAY QUESTION #2

Tell us about the volunteer work you've done or are interested in doing in the future. (Max 250 words.)

ESSAY QUESTION #3

Describe your future goals. (Max 250 words.)

Have you read and agree to the terms of the scholarship?

Should you be granted a scholarship, you will be responsible for any taxes owing on the funds you receive.

I agree with this term.

Do you agree to have your name listed in our newsletters and on our website as one of our scholarship recipients?

Yes.

No, thanks.

Student signature

Date

Parent / Guardian signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Name (Printed)

**Deadline to apply is June 20th of each year.
All applications must be received by this date.**

Email Application to: amber@vjkf.org

Mail Application to:

Attn: Scholarship Committee
Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation
P.O. Box 1681
Cochrane, AB
T4C 1B6