**Annual Joseph R. Dufek Scholarship**

Open Next Academic Year  |  Deadline: **May 31st, 2025,**  |  Residents of Dakota County and Scott County, Minnesota Only

Sponsored by [South Metro Community Services](https://smcsmn.org/)

Joey Dufek died tragically in 1987 in an accident that was directly related to his substance use disorder. SMCS offers this scholarship in his memory but, more importantly, to assist a high school student who has decided to become sober or is willing to begin that process and where financial assistance will help them stay in post-secondary school and stay sober. The goal is to have awardees establish a sober life through education supported by this scholarship.

SMCS will provide a scholarship of up to $5,000 to applicants willing to make this commitment and to demonstrate continued sobriety through periodic and random testing.. Awardees must also agree to free recovery coaching during their academic tenure as provided by [Certified Peer Recovery Specialists](https://www.verywellhealth.com/peer-support-specialists-5214328) from SMCS.

This scholarship is open to all applicants who meet the application criteria regardless of the educational agenda. Academic or community-based accomplishments are not considered for eligibility. All applications will be evaluated autonomously, that is, all personally identifying data will be removed prior to evaluation. All information will be treated as strictly confidential and will be maintained in a manner that is consistent will all relevant laws and regulations.

Applicants are willing to:

1. Begin sobriety or already be in the initial stages of recovery and agree to remain sober.
2. Pursue a trade, or a profession.
3. Sign a release of information.
4. Acknowledge that scholarship funds will be paid directly to educational institutions or vendors of direct benefit to applicant.
5. Agree to free recovery coaching.
6. Agree to participate in a collegiate recovery program (if available from the school being attended).

Applicants must currently be a resident of Dakota or Scott counties in Minnesota and be enrolled or plan to enroll in a full-time academic program in the upcoming academic year (beginning in Fall 2025) to complete a degree or technical certification. Awards will be granted to applicants for a second year as long as they remain sober and meet basic academic standards. (Our preference is that awardees initially attend a 2-year vocational-technical school such as [Dakota County Technical College](https://www.dctc.edu/admissions/).)

You must either type or print all your answers neatly in ink. Application responses may be sent via email to spcommunityresources@gmail.com or mailed to South Metro Community Services, 1440 Duckwood Drive, Suite 500, Eagan, MN 55122. Applications and any supporting materials must be postmarked by April 30, 2025, to the address above. Alternatively, applications can be completed through the website: [SMCSMN.org](https://smcsmn.org/). For questions, call (952) 955-9399.

**\*Please submit completed applications by email through** **info@smcsmn.org****\***