2026 Dean Shortridge Scholarship Information and Application

About the Dean Shortridge Scholarship

Junior Golf Aberdeen annually awards two $1,500 educational scholarships to area high school seniors who have demonstrated involvement in golf and intend to pursue education at a two- or four-year post-secondary institution. For additional information about the Dean Shortridge Scholarship or Junior Golf Aberdeen, visit the Junior Golf page at www.moccasincreekcc.com/Golf/Junior_Golf or contact Dean Zahn at 605-380-7201.

About Junior Golf Aberdeen

Junior Golf Aberdeen is a non-profit organization dedicated to positively influencing local youth through golf by offering educational programs, competitive events, and access to high-quality facilities. Its mission is to foster knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of golf while promoting values that enhance personal development. The organization's programming includes First Tee lessons, PGA Junior League, the Junior Golf Aberdeen tournament series, the Dean Shortridge Scholarship, and various community outreach initiatives.

Legacy of Dean Shortridge

Dean Shortridge arrived in Aberdeen in the late 1940s to serve as the PGA Golf Professional at the Aberdeen Country Club. He later transitioned to Moccasin Creek Country Club when it was established in 1971. Retiring in 1985, Dean continued to frequent Moccasin Creek and shared valuable advice with golfers of all ages until shortly before his passing in 2012. Dean was widely respected for his character and modeled the values that make golf an excellent sport for junior players. Hundreds of juniors benefitted from his instruction, as he never charged for lessons and often provided clubs to those who could not afford them. Many of his former students continued to seek his guidance well into adulthood. Dean’s teachings have been passed down through generations, positively impacting the youth of the region. He remains a model of gracious living and a legend within the local golf community.

Criteria for Selection

- Applicants must have lived in the Aberdeen area (within 50 miles) for at least the past year.
- Applicants must plan to attend a two- or four-year college, university, or accredited post-high school institution during the upcoming fall and spring semesters.
- Applicants must complete the Scholarship Application form and include the following:
    - School Transcript
    - Cover Letter & Golf Resume
    - Essay
    - References

A selection committee will determine scholarship winners. Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have participated in the First Tee in Aberdeen, the Aberdeen PGA Junior Golf League, Junior Golf Aberdeen events, and local junior golf programs and events. Additional criteria include participation in local high school, club, and state-level golf programming, high school academic achievement, involvement in other high school and community activities, and demonstration of leadership qualities such as honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Application Deadline

August 31, 2026

Dean Shortridge Scholarship Application (page 1)

Personal Information

Applicant's Name:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Address:	
City:	
Zip:	
Age:	
Birthdate:	
Home Golf Course:	
Parent/Guardian Name(s):	
Parent/Guardian Email(s):	
Parent/Guardian Phone(s):	
Number of people living in the household (including applicant):	

High School Information

High School Attended:	
Year Graduated:	
Attach applicant's transcript	
SAT/ACT Score (if applicable):	

College Information

Post Secondary College/University Enrolled at:	
Address of School's Financial Aid Office:	
Student ID# (if available):	
Intended Major(s):	
Other Scholarships/Grants/Awards received (including dollar amounts):	
Estimated Yearly Cost of School:	

Dean Shortridge Scholarship Application (page 2)

Cover Letter & Golf Resume

Include a cover letter summarizing why you should be considered for the Dean Shortridge Scholarship. Your resume should provide a detailed history of your golf involvement and accomplishments, with priority given to participation in the First Tee in Aberdeen, the Aberdeen PGA Junior Golf League, Junior Golf Aberdeen events, and other local junior golf programs and events. Please also include participation in local high school, club, and state-level golf programming, extracurricular activities, community and volunteer participation, employment history, and any awards or recognition you have received.

Essay

Please submit an ORIGINAL essay of no more than 300 words.

The topic for the essay is “Golf is a Great Game.” Please describe your personal background and connection with golf, outlining the sport's impact on your life as well as how it has shaped your ambitions for the future.

References

Attach to your application at least two references from a club professional, manager, or other golf course official, AND a school official, principal, golf coach, or counselor.

Application Deadline

August 31, 2026

Submit Application and attachments to:

JGA Dean Shortridge Scholarship
Attn: Dean Zahn
1103 Willow Drive
Aberdeen, SD 57401
deanzahn@nvc.net

For additional information about the Dean Shortridge Scholarship or Junior Golf Aberdeen, visit the Junior Golf page at www.moccasincreekkc.com/Golf/Junior_Golf or contact Dean Zahn at 605-380-7201.

JUNIOR GOLF
ABERDEEN