



FM Area Foundation
Connecting people and purpose.



Liudahl Fine Arts & Service Scholarship

***Application deadline –
March 31 of current year***

This scholarship is not paid out until second semester.

I. Eligibility requirements:

- A current graduating senior of Kindred High School
- Accepted for post-secondary education/training in a college, university or vocational/technical school as a first-year student.
- Applicant must have participated in at least one of the fine arts programs offered at Kindred High School in grades 9-12.
- Applicant must show examples of leadership/community service volunteer experience.
- A 2.5 GPA is required to apply.
- Two reference letters requested (not from a family member)
- Applicant must provide, in 500 words or less essay form, their goals in life and a plan on how they can better serve their community.

II. General Information:

A. Your Name: Max Bernier

Permanent Address: 9702 Robin Rd Horace, ND 58047

Telephone: 701-371-7092

Email address: maxmbernie@gmail.com

College Attending: University of North Dakota

Overall GPA: 3.92

Fine Arts Program: Choir, Show Choir, Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Speech, Musical, One Act

III. Personal essay: In 500 words or less, please provide your goals in life, your examples of leadership or volunteer experience, and a plan on how you can better service your community.

Please use 12-point type and double-space your personal statement.

IV. Attach two reference letters (not from a family member).

Signature _____

Date _____

**Applications should be
returned to Kindred School
Counselor,
Leslie Lemke by
March 31 of current year**

SCHEELS

HOME & HARDWARE

3202 13th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103
701.232.8903

Ashley Wait
Marketing Leader/ Events Coordinator
SCHEELS Home & Hardware
3202 13th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103
8.18.2025

Admissions Committee / To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Max Bernier for your consideration. While my direct interactions with him have been limited, I had the opportunity to observe his work ethic and professionalism firsthand during volunteer events at our store in partnership with Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue.

Throughout these events, Max consistently demonstrated initiative, responsibility, and a genuine enthusiasm for the work. He approached each task with diligence, whether it was assisting with the animal meet-and-greets or engaging with our employees and customers. His thoroughness in ensuring the well-being of the animals and the smooth running of the events was evident, and his positive attitude created a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.

What stood out most to me was his ability to take initiative without needing direction, a quality not always common among high school students. He showed professionalism well beyond his years, and it was clear he took pride in his contributions. His presence added to the success of connecting families with adoptable pets.

I am confident that Max will bring the same strong work ethic, positive attitude, and sense of responsibility to any future academic or professional endeavor he pursues. I fully support his application and believe he will be an asset to your program.

Please feel free to contact me at arwait@scheels.com if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wait

Ashley Wait
Marketing Leader/ Events Coordinator
SCHEELS Home & Hardware
arwait@scheels.com 701.232.8903



To Whom it May Concern:

Hello, my name is Keith Benning and I am the Founder & Manager Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue, and a North Dakota Municipal Judge. I write this letter of recommendation for Max Bernier with great pleasure.

I met Max over seven years ago when his family adopted a badly injured dog from the rescue. I was lucky enough to watch Max, and his three-legged dog Chance blossom over the years. Max helped to foster hundreds of dogs and puppies over the years and was a constant volunteer at adoption events. What impressed me the most was his willingness to step in and help, and speak up when something was wrong. Sometimes adults are not as careful as they should be with a puppy, but I can remember Max politely speaking up and showing the proper way to hold them. That takes a lot of courage for a kid to correct an adult, and the impressive thing was the respectful way he did it.

Max didn't shy away from the hard work either. He was there for set up, was always ready for poop patrol, and helped to take down and pack up when the event was over. Unlike many kids his age he was present, and not glued to his phone. He knew he had a job to do and he took pride in doing it. Max has a bright future ahead of him and I hope your institution is a part of it. Feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions.

Sincerely,

Keith Benning
Founder & Manager Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue, North Dakota Municipal Judge.

3122 Lake Upsilon Rd
St John, ND 58369
keithbenning@gmail.com
701-550-1741



November 6, 2025

Maximillian Michael Bernier
9702 Robin Rd
Horace, ND 58047
USA

Dear Maximillian,

Congratulations! On behalf of everyone at the University of North Dakota, I am pleased to tell you that you have been accepted to UND for the Fall 2026 term.

A UND education will challenge you, hold you to a high standard and develop you into a dynamic leader. As a campus community, we take great pride in our history, hard work and resiliency. In reviewing your application, I believe you have demonstrated the required work ethic and abilities to continue our strong tradition of being leaders in action.

You'll receive an official acceptance letter with a special UND gift and your admitted student checklist in the mail. In the meantime, share your excitement with the #UNDproud hashtag and check out your next steps toward getting started at the University of North Dakota [here](#).

Welcome to the UND family! We can't wait to have you on campus!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Aamodt
Director of University Admissions
University of North Dakota

I hit a deer. It mangled my car. It could have been worse, but now I drive a different car, on the same road, daily. Shortly after that accident, I decided where I would attend college. I had toured many, looked up others, but now the decision was made. The University of North Dakota will be the spot I learn Civil Engineering and collaborate with other students to expand on nature-based solutions to protect, not just people, but implement safety for our local ecosystem.

My educational goals are not just to attend my engineering classes, but to get involved in the clubs, the competitions, and participate in the internship partnerships UND has with local businesses and corporations across the country.

Smart-sensor technology is a tool that interests me, and using it to save the lives of humans and animals is my goal. I have already followed and read about attempts of saving wildlife in Scandinavian countries and in the United States. They use funnels, over-under passes, fencing and habitat management. North Dakota provides an additional element of challenge with the flat landscapes, cold winters, straight-line winds, and high deer population.

UND is already addressing the culvert situation in North Dakota, with support from NDDOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Their research of how to build culverts and goals of replacing old ones, while still protecting the wildlife, this aligns with the type of contributions I would like to give back to my home state.

Serving others is a core value in my home and I was raised to be responsible, respectful, and use manners. I was recently inducted into the North Dakota Honor Society based on their four pillars of Leadership, Service, Character, and Academics. These values have been recognized by my mentors, school staff, and classmates. These values will help me stay focused as I move into a challenging curriculum. My participation in high school musical the past four years and being a three-time state champion in One Act has inspired me to continue seeking out areas where I can add value and solutions.

I have been an active volunteer for Turtle Mountain Animal Rescue (Rolla, ND) since 2018, and the Golden Drive for Homeless Kids (West Fargo, ND) for just about as long. Through Student Council I volunteered for "Feed My Starving Children" and "Fill the Dome" food drives. Volunteerism will continue to be important to me. I will keep doing transports for TMAR and I want to learn more about the volunteer opportunities at the Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre. UND has a club baseball team I also hope to join and I will continue to play my bass guitar for personal enjoyment and volunteer at local community theatre. My passions for baseball, music, and animals will stay with me.

I am grateful for your consideration. Funds received will help alleviate the stress of paying for college and help me achieve my goals of creating positive change for the community, both human and wildlife as a Civil Engineer. I appreciate your investment in my future.

-Max Bernier