



APPLY HERE!  
DUE 1/23/26



# Kansas NextGen Ogallala Scholars Program

Preparing the next generation to protect the future of Kansas' water

## Program Overview

The Kansas NextGen Ogallala Scholars Program is a no-cost leadership and education experience for high school juniors and seniors who want to better understand water, agriculture, and the future of rural Kansas.

Through immersive, place-based learning, students explore the Ogallala Aquifer, engage with industry and policy leaders, and build the skills needed to be thoughtful stewards of one of Kansas' most critical natural resources.

## Who Should Apply

This program is ideal for students who:

- Are curious about water, agriculture, natural resources, science, or public policy
- Demonstrate leadership potential or community involvement
- Want hands-on, experiential learning beyond the classroom

**No prior experience in agriculture or water policy is required.**

## Eligibility & Requirements

- Be a current high school junior or senior (January 2026 - May 2026)
- Attend a Kansas high school, with preference given to Southwest Kansas students
- Commit to participating in at least two of the three program experiences
- Be able to travel to Dodge City and Garden City
- Be able to travel to a central Southwest Kansas location for bus pickup to Manhattan
- Have support from a parent/guardian and school for participation

## What Is Provided

The Ogallala Scholars Program provides:

- No-cost participation (no program or registration fees)
- Gas stipend for student travel (Dodge City, Garden City, central SW KS pick up point)
- Transportation from a central Southwest Kansas location to Manhattan
- Meals and program materials during program experiences
- Lodging for Manhattan experience
- Access to experts, industry leaders, and mentors
- Official excuse letters for school absences upon request

## Program Structure: Three Signature Experiences

### Dodge City Experience | Monday, February 16

- Explore the Ogallala Aquifer and why it is critical to western Kansas
- Learn how water availability shapes agriculture, communities, and economies
- Visit local sites to see water use and conservation practices firsthand

### Garden City & Holcomb Experience | March 11

- Examine how water supports food production and processing
- Visit agricultural and ag-adjacent operations to understand water's role
- Learn how policymakers balance economic growth with resource sustainability

### Manhattan Experience (Overnight) | April 15-16

- Explore higher education, research, and policy perspectives
- Engage with university faculty, state officials, and professionals shaping solutions
- Consider pathways aligned with agriculture, natural resources, and sustainability

## Application Link

Applying using the QR code on page one or at the link below. Applications due 1/23/26. The inaugural class will be announced by February 1.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fG0q2GMB7u>

## Questions?

Contact Alyson Lister at [alyson@rootsandlegacies.com](mailto:alyson@rootsandlegacies.com).

