

DGHA Scholarship

Thank you for your interest in the Duluth Girls' Hockey Association Scholarship! The 2026 application period will open **March 1, 2026** and applications will be accepted through **March 31, 2025**.

This scholarship is the culmination of the association's vision to give back to the amazing female hockey players that have helped to develop a love and passion for hockey in the Twin Ports. Proceeds from the annual St. Luke's Icebreaker Invitational have made funding of this scholarship possible.

The purpose of the Duluth Girls' Hockey Association Scholarship is to provide an award of \$2,000 for one deserving senior, who is a former Icebreaker player and is interested in attending a post-secondary educational institution.

Below you will find information on eligibility requirements and the application process.

[You can access the application here.](#)

Application Process

1. Applicant must be a high school senior.
2. Applicant must have been an Icebreaker and demonstrated a strong commitment, work ethic and desire to contribute to the Duluth Girls' Icebreaker hockey program. Applicants should be individuals who have supported, promoted and enhanced the opportunities for the sport of girls hockey to grow locally in Duluth, MN.
3. Applicant must demonstrate commitment to academics, community involvement and athletics.

Eligibility Requirements

1. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 31, 2026 at 11:59 PM.
2. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
3. If questions do not apply, please write N/A in the space provided.
4. All applicants, regardless of award, will be notified regarding the status of your application.
5. If you have questions regarding the application or requirements, please email duluthgirlshockey2@gmail.com.
6. Scholarship funds will be awarded to the student upon evidence of registration and acceptance into an accredited post-secondary institution.
7. The scholarship will be awarded as one (1) \$2,000 award.

Applicant must submit the following:

1. Completed application form.
2. Letter of application addressed to the Duluth Girls Hockey Association Scholarship Committee. The letter should contain a brief explanation of your career and scholastic goals as well as outlining the reasons why you are applying for this scholarship.
3. An official high school transcript (must be dated within three (3) months of the application deadline).
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation (former coaches, teachers, mentors, advisors - no family members).
5. There might be a brief in-person or phone interview, if necessary, to determine final candidates.

2025 scholarship recipient - Gracyn Schipper



My experience as an Icebreaker has impacted my life by shaping me as an athlete, a leader, a student, and a person. I joined my first Icebreaker team in the third grade. My Mom wanted me to be a skier, but I wanted to play hockey. When I was in second grade, I broke my leg while skiing at Chester Bowl. On the way to the hospital, I asked, “Can I play hockey now?” My Mom finally said, “yes,” and I couldn’t wait to be an Icebreaker next winter.

Playing for the Icebreakers became a huge part of who I am today. From a young age, Icebreakers taught me the importance of hard work, teamwork, discipline, humility, and perseverance. The tough practices and long road trips helped me develop the discipline and dedication that carried me into high school as an athlete and student. I also learned the importance of having fun! Playing Icebreakers introduced me to many amazing people. I built strong friendships with my teammates and learned from great coaches. I looked up to the older girls who set an example of what it meant to be a great player and leader which inspired me to become a role model.

I always tried my best to be kind, supportive, and encouraging to everyone, especially the younger players on my teams and in the Icebreaker program.

Some of my fondest memories with the Icebreakers came from the “Skate with the Stars” events where the young Icebreakers skated with the Northern Stars High School team. I was so happy to volunteer at all the events and was always the last high school player to leave the ice. I led activities like freeze tag, races, and relays and made sure every kid had fun and felt included. Through these events I was a role model for the younger girls, just like the older players were for me when I was little.



It

felt wonderful to give back to the Icebreaker community and inspire the next generation of players. It made me so happy to see how much they enjoyed themselves. Their excitement was contagious. Some days the Icebreaker girls would all jump on me and tackle me in pure joy. These experiences as a former Icebreaker and current Northern Star helped me realize how much I love mentoring younger players.

The lessons I learned through Icebreakers extend well beyond the hockey rink. Playing for the Icebreakers taught me the value of teamwork, cooperation, and hard work. As I continued to play, I learned how to be a great leader and friend to everyone on the team. I learned the power of a positive attitude and how to encourage my Icebreaker teammates to stick with it and have fun, especially when we weren't playing well. I also learned the importance of being a humble

and gracious winner by always treating others with kindness and respect, including my opponents and the referees. Perhaps most importantly, playing for the Icebreakers gave me confidence in myself that I can do great things.

The lessons I have learned and the skills I have gained from the Icebreakers will help me be successful in all aspects of life. I am proud to say that I will be pursuing my education and playing hockey at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire this coming fall. As a business major, the values of hard work, teamwork, cooperation, kindness, discipline, humility, and perseverance that I learned as an Icebreaker will help me succeed in college and as a business professional. I am extremely grateful for everything the Duluth Icebreaker program has provided for me, including my love of hockey! As I look back, being an Icebreaker was far more than just playing a game and being on a team. Being an Icebreaker shaped the foundation of who I am today. I am proud to call myself a Duluth Icebreaker!