

Scholar

2026

CHIEF ANTONIO AZUL AWARDS

**Application
Deadline
April 6, 2026**



Questions?

Call: 520-562-3662

Email: TEDEvents@gric.nsn.us

Visit: GRICTED.com

2026 CHIEF AZUL SCHOLAR

Chief Antonio Azul, known as Mavith Kavdom (“Lion Shield”), was born in 1817 and is recognized as the last head chief of the Akimel O’otham people. In an 1866 letter to the Arizona Territorial Governor, Chief Azul wrote, “The Pimas and Maricopas want nothing from the government except schools.” This powerful statement reflects how the O’otham and Pee Posh people of the Gila River recognized education as essential to the strength and future of coming generations. Chief Antonio Azul passed away on October 1, 1909.

In honor of his legacy, the Tribal Education Department announces the 2026 Chief Azul Scholar Award, which recognizes student scholars for educational achievement, academic excellence, and leadership. This award is designed to inspire Gila River Indian students to pursue higher academic goals and continue the enduring commitment to education championed by Chief Azul.



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD

- Enrolled Members and Direct Descendants of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC)
 - Direct Descendant: Mother or Father Enrolled with GRIC - Certificate of Indian Blood Required
- Enrolled Student in 4th-12th grade (GED)
- Full-time College or Trade School Student
- Meets or Exceeds the Selection Criteria

**For more information or questions call 520-562-3662 or
email TEDEvents@gric.nsn.us**

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Students in grades 4th to 12th (GED):

All nominations must be submitted on the Chief Azul Scholar nomination form. The nomination form must be completed fully and must be signed off by a school official. A school staff member or administrator, K-12 advisor or parent must complete the nomination form and submit on behalf of the student. All supporting application documents indicated on the checklist must be included with the nomination form.

College or Trade School Students:

All nominations must be submitted on the Chief Azul Scholar nomination form. The nomination form must be completed fully and must be signed off by a school official. A professor, student advisor, or parent must complete the nomination form and submit on behalf of the student. All supporting application documents indicated on the checklist must be included with the nomination form.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Excellent attendance record (Minimum 85%) with no behavior referrals
- Consistent performance and demonstrates high academic engagement with a strong academic record
- Demonstrates desire and ability to overcome barriers and achieve their goals
- Individual determination to succeed; self-motivated in completing challenging coursework
- Demonstrates knowledge of and/or interest in GRIC culture
- Documented record of participation in extracurricular activities, volunteer/ community service

SUPPORTING APPLICATION DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

4th-8th Grade:

- ☐ School Transcript or Grade Report Card for SY 2025 - 2026
- ☐ Attendance record with no behavior referrals
- ☐ Documentation of extracurricular activities, community service, awards, or certificates
- ☐ Letter of recommendation

9th-12th Grade (GED):

- ☐ School Transcript for SY 2025 - 2026
- ☐ Attendance record with no behavior referrals
- ☐ Documentation supporting extracurricular activities, community service, awards, or certificates
- ☐ Letter of recommendation
- ☐ Personal Essay: *"How would being a leader in your community influence academic achievement?"* Essay must be typed, double-spaced in a 12 pt. font, 1000 word max.

College or Trade School Student:

- ☐ School transcript for SY 2025 - 2026
- ☐ Enrollment verification (Must be current full-time student)
- ☐ Resume or vitae that outlines students interests, volunteerism, community service, and achievements
- ☐ Letter of recommendation from current or former Professor/Instructor
- ☐ Personal essay: *"How would being a leader in your community influence academic achievement?"* Essay must be typed, double-spaced in a 12 pt. font, 1000 word max.

JUDGING PROCESS

- Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of selected GRIC Community Members or Employees
- The panel will rank the nominations according to how well they meet or exceed the criteria and select the 3 highest scoring students per grade level
- There will be one Chief Azul Scholar and two honorable mentions per grade level

SUBMIT NOMINATION APPLICATION TO:

By mail: Tribal Education Department
ATTN: 2026 Chief Azul Award Application
P.O. Box 97, Sacaton, AZ 85147

By email: TEDEvents@gric.nsn.us

In person: Tribal Education Department, 7050 W Allison Rd, Chandler, AZ

2026 CHIEF AZUL SCHOLAR NOMINATION FORM

Please fill out completely and accurately. Attach nomination form with supporting application documents. Applications received after deadline date of April 6, 2026 will not be considered.

Name of Nominee: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Date: _____

Nominated by(Name and Title): _____

Nominee/Parent Email: _____

Nominee/Parent Contact Number: _____



School's Official Use Only:

Not required for postsecondary students.

Date Received: _____ School Official Signature: _____

Student's GPA: _____ Attendance: _____ (Minimum 85%)

Positive Behavior: Yes/No Referrals: Yes/No

Student Accomplishments (Principals List, Student Council, Honor Roll, Dean's List etc.): _____

Type of Extracurricular Activities (Includes School and Community Activities): _____

All nominations must be completed in full and prior to deadline date above.
Any portion left void of information may limit the student's chances of selection.