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Taos Ski Valley Awards Scholarships to Local Students

Partnership with the Matthew Zonghetti Scholarship Fund expands annual support

TAOS SKI VALLEY, N.M. (May 27, 2026) – During Taos High School Senior Class Night, [Taos Ski Valley](#) awarded scholarships to four graduating seniors, reinforcing the resort's commitment to supporting local youth and investing in the future of the Taos community.

Taos Ski Valley received 26 applications this year, with a staff selection committee facilitating a competitive review process to select the student recipients. Marilyn Banuelos and Zahra Gottschau, members of the Taos High School Class of 2026, each received a \$2,500 Taos Ski Valley Uplift Scholarship in recognition of their academic achievements and dedication to the Taos community. As part of the application process, students were asked to reflect upon how they plan to uplift their communities through their college education and beyond. Their responses highlighted a generation deeply committed to service, belonging, and giving back to the communities that shaped them.

Students shared aspirations of creating opportunities for youth to feel confident and included regardless of financial background, supporting immigrant and first-generation communities through entrepreneurship and healthcare, and using science and education to inspire curiosity and opportunity in rural communities like their own. Across the applications, a common thread emerged that success was viewed not simply as a personal achievement, but as a responsibility to create opportunities for others and strengthen community for future generations.

“Supporting local youth is one of the most meaningful ways we can invest in the future of our community,” said Lori Rangel, senior human resources manager and scholarship committee member. “We are honored to recognize these students for their hard work, leadership and commitment to the community, and we are proud to help support these students as they pursue their higher education.”

New this year, Taos Ski Valley helped expand local youth scholarship awards through a partnership with the [Matthew Zonghetti Scholarship Fund, Inc.](#), also known as the “Live Like Z” organization. Established in 2019 by Susan and Michael Zonghetti, to honor the legacy of their son, Matthew Zonghetti, the organization supports students who embody Matthew’s passion for living life to its fullest and embracing new opportunities while making a positive impact on others. Through this collaboration, Taos Ski Valley worked alongside the Zonghetti family to identify scholarship recipients from the 33 applications it received. Gabriela Rodriguez and Santiago DeHerrera from Taos High School’s Class of 2026, were selected and each awarded with a \$2,500 Matthew Zonghetti Scholarship.

“The compassion shown to us by the Taos community has never wavered. Because of that connection, beginning this year, the Matthew Zonghetti Scholarship Fund is awarding scholarships to two graduating seniors from Taos High School, bringing the Taos community together with ours, and continuing Matt’s legacy of connection, opportunity, and living life to the fullest.” said Susan Zonghetti. “We wish Gabriela and





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Santiago the best of luck as they embark on their next chapter. Congratulations to them as well as all the other Taos High School graduates.”

Last year’s Taos Ski Valley Uplift Scholarship recipient, Julianna Flores, said it best, “I’m honored to be awarded this scholarship and can’t express my gratitude enough. You have given me the resources as well as the confidence to pursue my educational goals.”

Taos Ski Valley’s Community Pledge

To learn more about Taos Ski Valley’s Community Pledge and the actions it takes to bring that pledge to life, please visit <https://www.skitaos.com/community>.

