



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Scholarship Guidelines

1. Eligibility is limited to the following students:
 - A. Students who are graduating high school seniors attending schools within SMECO's service area and who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers.
 - B. Students who live within SMECO's service area and are home schooled through an umbrella school located within SMECO's service area and who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers.
 - C. Students who live with parents or guardians in SMECO's service area who are home schooled solely under parent direction.

Proof of residence, such as a copy of the student's driver's license must accompany the student's application.

2. Students must be enrolled or plan to enroll full-time in an accredited college or university. If enrolled, a copy of the letter of acceptance should accompany application.
3. Students must complete a scholarship application form. Forms may be obtained from the career center in each high school, SMECO's regional or headquarters offices, SMECO's web site: www.smeco.coop, or by calling SMECO's Community Relations Division at 1-888-440-3311, extension 4312.
4. Enclose a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U. S. Department of Education **if available**.
5. Students must submit an essay on the topic "*Why Is A College Education Important to Completing My Lifetime Goals?*" Essay should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed one 8 1/2 x 11 inch page.
6. All applicants must provide a minimum of two letters of reference. Letters may be from school administrators or teachers, clergy, and civic or business leaders. Letters may not be from family members.
7. All applicants must have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale during the first semester of their senior year. Applicants must provide a copy of their high school transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, and class rank from their guidance counselor. **Packets not containing SAT or ACT scores will be disqualified.**

8. Scholarships will be awarded based on the following criteria: Scholastic Achievement - 40 percent; Financial Need - 50 percent; Interview, School Involvement, and Community Involvement - 10 percent.
9. Essays and accompanying documentation will be evaluated by the Scholarship Awards Committee, which is composed of SMECO employees. **The top 7 candidates will be interviewed by the committee.** Interviews will be conducted on *Saturday, March 22, 2008*, at SMECO's Headquarters Building Auditorium in Hughesville. Students will be given directions to the transportation building when the appointment is scheduled.
10. The completed application package may be taken to any local SMECO office or mailed to SMECO's Hughesville Headquarters, P. O. Box 1937, Hughesville, Maryland 20637, attention Bernadette Lewis. All items must be submitted as one package and received by SMECO by **February 29, 2008.**

Applicants for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's Scholarships shall be considered on the Cooperative's established guidelines without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age or handicap.

10/2007