



Scholarship Guidelines

1. Students who are graduating high school seniors who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers are eligible to apply.
2. Home schooled students who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers are eligible to apply.
3. Proof of residence, such as a copy of the student's driver's license or school identification must accompany the student's application.
4. Students must be enrolled or plan to enroll full-time in an accredited college or university. A copy of the letter(s) of acceptance should accompany application.
5. Students must complete a scholarship application form. Forms may be obtained from the career center in each high school, SMECO's St. Mary's Regional Office or Hughesville Headquarters Office, SMECO's web site: www.smeco.coop, or by calling Bernadette Lewis at 1-888-440-3311, extension 4340.
6. **Students must enclose a copy of the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the U. S. Department of Education and a copy of the first 2 pages of the completed 2015 Federal Tax Return.**
7. 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 one 8 1/2 x 11 inch page.
8. 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.
9. 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 official high school transcript, first semester grades if not included on transcript, SAT or ACT scores, and class rank. The high school counselor may be able to assist in obtaining these documents.
10. 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.
11. Essays and accompanying documentation will be evaluated by the Scholarship Awards Committee, which is composed of SMECO employees. **The committee will interview**

the top 7 candidates. Interviews will be conducted on **Saturday, April 16, 2016**, at SMECO's Headquarters facility in Hughesville. Students will be given directions to the exact building when the appointment is scheduled. Appointments for interviews on Saturday will be scheduled on Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15.

12. The completed application package may be taken to SMECO's St. Mary's Regional Office or Hughesville Headquarters 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 **Friday, April 1, 2016**.
13. Packets not containing the required documentation will be disqualified.

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 disability.

10/2015