



Dear 2020 Graduate:

Congratulations on reaching this level of accomplishment in your high school career. You are in the final months of your senior year; you have prepared yourself well and are ready to take the next step. We applaud you for your interest in furthering your education by either attending a trade school, college, or university.

Here at Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) we understand that there are many opportunities available to you. Because of the financial challenges that continuing your education may pose for you and your family, SMECO is pleased to have available scholarships for our graduating high-school seniors.

Simply complete the application in this booklet, and return the booklet and required documentation and an essay on "Why Is A College Education Important to Completing My Lifetime Goals?" to SMECO by **Friday, April 3, 2020**. You may either mail the information to Natalie Cotton at P. O. Box 1937, Hughesville, Maryland 20637 or drop it off at one of our offices located in Hughesville (Transportation Building or Headquarters Building) or Leonardtown. The Scholarship Guidelines are also enclosed to assist you in completing the application, providing the required documentation, and preparing your essay. Before submitting your application packet, please take time to review the guidelines to ensure that all requirements have been satisfied. We strongly encourage that you seek assistance in reviewing the required essay. **Please note that interviews for the top 7 candidates will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020.**

If you need additional information, please feel free to give me a call at 1-888-440-3311 ext. 4377 or e-mail me at Natalie.Cotton@smeco.coop.

Again **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Natalie Cotton

Government Affairs and Community
Relations Director

Student Personal Information:

Student's Name _____

Address _____
(Street, City, State, Zip Code, and P.O. Box if applicable)

County _____ Home Telephone # _____ Cell # _____

E-mail Address: _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) E-mail Address: _____ Cell # _____

Are you (student) related to a SMECO employee, retiree, or director? _____

Name of relative _____

What is the relationship to the person named above? _____

SMECO Account Name and Number _____

High School Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Counselor _____

Career Pathway _____

Academic Honors Received

What is the **COMPLETE** name and mailing address of the college or university you plan to attend?

In what subject will you earn your degree? _____

When do you plan to begin pursuing this degree? _____

Have you been awarded any other scholarship(s)? _____

If yes, please list name and amount of scholarship(s).

Name _____ Amount (\$)

List extracurricular activities and honors received at school. (*Attach additional pages if needed.*)

What are your community, civic, or church involvements? Give details such as responsibilities and hours of involvement. *(Attach additional pages if needed.)*

What are your hobbies, interests, or special talents? *(Attach additional pages if needed.)*

Financial Information:

Student Assets

Give the amounts in the following accounts:

Savings Bonds for College: _____ Other: _____

Parent's Assets and Family Profile *(Please have parent or guardian complete the following sections.)*

Savings Bonds for College: _____ Other: _____

Number of college graduates in your immediate family _____

List dependents:

Number of adults living in the household who are dependents _____

Number of children under age 18 living in the household _____

Number presently enrolled in institutions for which you pay tuition (parents and children) _____

Tuition Amounts: (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____

APPLICATION REMINDERS:

DID YOU...

- Complete the Application
- Provide an Official High School Transcript
- Provide a Copy of Your ACT or SAT Scores
(May be obtained from counselor)
- Provide a copy of the Student Aid Report
- Provide a copy of pages 1 & 2 of Your Parents
2019 Federal Tax Return
- Provide Two Letters of Recommendation
- Provide a Copy of Your Identification
- Enclose Copies of Your Acceptance Letter(s)
- Write the Essay/Reviewed by Parents or English Teacher
- Sign and Date the Application --Student and Parent(s)

Student:

As an applicant for a scholarship from SMECO, I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I realize that the Scholarship Awards Committee may verify this information at a later time. In addition, all information requested prior to or at the interview must be supplied to the committee to be considered for an award.

Should I be awarded a scholarship from SMECO, I hereby consent to SMECO printing, posting online, publishing, or otherwise issuing articles or press releases containing non-financial information (which may include but not be limited to, my name, county or city or town of residence, school, academic and personal achievements, goals, and desires) and/or images/photographs about myself relating to my application for and award of a scholarship.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent:

As a parent or guardian of a student who is applying for a scholarship from SMECO, I have completed this form to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of the information that I have given on this form. I realize that this proof may include a copy of my latest federal tax return.

Should the student for whom I am parent or guardian be a minor and be awarded a scholarship from SMECO, I hereby consent to SMECO printing, posting online, publishing, or otherwise issuing articles or press releases containing non-financial information (which may include, but not be limited to, the student's name, county or city or town of residence, school, academic and personal achievements, goals, and desires) and/or images/photographs about the student relating to the student's application for and award of a scholarship.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Applicants for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's Scholarships shall be considered on the Cooperative's established guidelines without regard to race, color, national origin, age or disability. (Children and grandchildren of present or retired SMECO employees or directors are ineligible.)



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 must the 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 Natalie Cotton at 1-888-440-3311, extension 4377.
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 and signed 2019 Federal Tax Return. Social Security numbers may be blocked out with a black marker.**
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 with the school seal, 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. **The committee will interview the top 7 candidates.** Interviews will be conducted on **Saturday, April 18, 2020**, 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 16 and Friday, April 17.**

12. The completed application package may be taken to SMECOs' St. Mary's Regional Office or Hughesville Headquarters Office or mailed to SMECO's Hughesville Headquarters, P. O. Box 1937, Hughesville, Maryland 20637, attention Natalie Cotton. All items must be submitted as one package and received by SMECO by **April 3, 2020.**
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.

10/2019