



Valley Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

2012 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Objective: A well-educated and skilled workforce is vital to the socioeconomic interests of our communities. The value and cost of post secondary education has increased considerably. This program seeks to offset some of those costs by providing funding to qualified individuals in our communities pursuing post-secondary education.

Program Description: Valley Electric Association (VEA) will award six (6) educational scholarships annually to assist qualified individuals in furthering their education. The scholarships are described as follows.

- Two (2) *full time academic* scholarships; \$1,000/per yr/per student for four (4) consecutive years. *(Provides recipients longer term funding stability in pursuit of a four year undergraduate degree in a declared course of study.)*
- Two (2) *full time vocational/technical* scholarships; \$1,000/per yr/per student for two (2) consecutive years. *(Provides recipients longer term funding stability in pursuit of a two year degree in a declared course of study.)*
- Two (2) *part time continuing education* scholarships; \$500/per yr/per student for 1 year. *(Provides assistance to those seeking training or education on a part-time basis to facilitate career changes or new employment opportunities.)*

VEA Annual Costs

Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4
\$5,000	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$13,000

Eligibility

1. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the candidate, or the candidate must be a member of VEA with an active account served by VEA (excluding dependents of persons serving on the selection committee).
2. Applicant must enroll at an accredited educational or training institution as a full time student or, in the case of continuing education, as a part time student in a declared degree path.

Selection Criteria

1. General selection criteria will include the following considerations:
 - a. Membership eligibility.
 - b. Submission of 500-word essay – topic to be assigned.
 - c. Submission of 100-word “Statement of Goals”
 - d. Grade Point Average.
 - e. A copy of applicant’s high school transcript (for Academic only).
 - f. Two letters of recommendation-
-one of which must be from the applicant’s high school (for Academic only).
 - g. School/Community Involvement.



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Funding Criteria

Incremental scholarship funds shall be disbursed immediately upon delivery of the following to VEA:

1. Student must provide transcript(s) proving completion of a full complement of classes at the end of the fall semester for each qualifying school year.
2. Student must maintain a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for the entire qualifying period: academic, four (4) consecutive years; vocational/technical, two (2) consecutive years; and continuing education, one (1) year.
3. Student must provide a spring semester enrollment schedule showing registration in a full complement of classes for the spring semester of each qualifying year.

Review Committee

1. The community and governmental relations department of VEA will serve as the review committee.
2. The review committee will screen all applications for eligibility and completeness.

Selection Committee

1. The selection committee will be comprised of volunteer members of VEA's Ambassador Scholarship Committee.
2. Scholarship applications will be evaluated and scored by the selection committee.

Selection

1. The selection committee will be "blind" to the identities of the applicants. As much as possible, all references to the applicant's name or gender will be "blacked-out" to maintain anonymity.
2. Completed applications will be assigned a reference number by the review committee. It will be by that number that individual applications will be identified by selection committee members.
3. Copies of each complete application will be distributed to each selection committee member for review.
4. Each selection committee member will score each scholarship application based on scoring criteria established by VEA.
5. The review committee will compile the total scores for each applicant as received from the selection committee. The total score for each applicant will be divided by the number of judges to produce an average score.
6. The highest average scores will be used to determine the scholarship recipients.



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Scoring

ACADEMIC SCORING	Possible Points
School and Community Involvement	0-15
Letters of Recommendation	0-05
500-Word Essay	0-45
Statement of Goals	0-25
Grade Point Average	0-10
Total Possible Points	100

VO/TECH & CE SCORING	Possible Points
Community Involvement	0-15
Letters of Recommendation	0-05
500-Word Essay	0-55
Statement of Goals	0-25
Total Possible Points	100