



2026 Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program

The Scholarship

Willis A. Shadow was the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Agent for Meigs County in 1933. He saw the great potential in bringing electricity to the Decatur/Meigs County area. His leadership helped to create Meigs County Power Association, the organization that would become the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation and ultimately, Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC). J.W. Lillard's roots ran deep in the county; he lived and practiced law in Decatur for many years. As a gift to the community he loved, Mr. Lillard volunteered his time and expertise to assist Mr. Shadow in his efforts. Mr. Lillard was the cooperative's first president, providing the necessary consistency of leadership for the first seven years. Because of their vision and commitment to the community, Mr. Shadow and Mr. Lillard were instrumental in improving the lives and livelihood of thousands of residents through electric power. This scholarship honors the community spirit of Willis A. Shadow and J. W. Lillard.

Because of this history, Volunteer Energy Cooperative is committed to the strength of individuals and organizations in its service area and recognizes the importance of volunteerism and community activities to a young person's growth. This scholarship program will reward students who have "given back" to their communities by assisting the students with college costs.

A total of four awards of \$500 per semester will be distributed for fall semester 2026. These awards are renewable for up to four semesters, with a \$2,000 maximum award per student. To receive each semester's award, the student must be a declared major in one of the qualified areas (see Criteria below) and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5. (The student is responsible for submitting copies of grades to VEC each semester to verify continuation of the awards.) Checks will be made payable jointly to the student and the college and mailed directly to each recipient's college. The award may be applied to tuition, fees, books, and/or living expenses.

One \$500-per-semester scholarship will be awarded from each of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative service areas. Qualifying areas are:

Jamestown Area: Pickett County High School, York Institute, Clarkrange High School

Crossville Area: Cumberland County High School, Monterey High School, Stone Memorial High School

Decatur Area: Rhea County High School, Midway High School, Meigs County High School, McMinn County High School, McMinn Central High School

Cleveland Area: Bradley Central High School, Cleveland High School, Walker Valley High School, Chattanooga Central High School, Polk County High School, Ooltewah High School, and Sale Creek High School.

(Students from schools other than those listed may also be eligible for scholarship awards.)

The Criteria

- Graduating high school seniors at qualifying schools whose parents or guardians are electric customers of Volunteer Energy Cooperative are eligible to apply.
- Qualified applicants must have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale through the fall semester of his/her senior year and have valid ACT/SAT scores.
- An applicant's **community service activities and citizenship (40%)**, **written communication skills (20%)**, **academic achievement (15%)**, and **financial need (25%)** will be considered when awarding the scholarship.
- Recipients must pursue a full-time course of study in business, education, science/math/medicine, agriculture, or technology at a regionally accredited, two- or four-year degree-granting institution in Tennessee for the duration of the scholarship award.
- Completed application packets, including all documentation, must be received at VEC's Corporate Headquarters in Decatur, Tennessee no later than 5 p.m. EST **March 6, 2026**.

Dependents of VEC employees, directors, or TVA employees are not eligible for this award.

How To Apply

All forms must be completed and submitted by the deadline in order for the application packet to be considered.

- FORM A is to be completed by the student. An essay no longer than 3 pages must be attached to this form. Please do not attach pictures.
- FORM B is to be completed by the applicant and the high school counselor. Official high school transcripts through fall semester of the senior year and a copy of ACT/SAT scores must be attached to this form.
- FORM C is to be completed by the applicant's reference (teacher, community leader, or other person who has personal knowledge of the applicant's work ethic and personality). A letter of reference (no more than 2 pages) must be attached to this form.
- FORM D is to be completed by the applicant's parent(s). Copies of the parent(s) most recently filed federal tax form (must contain the first page with number of dependents and adjusted gross income) must be attached to this form. Please use a sharpie to mark out social security numbers.
- FORM E is to be signed by the applicant and the applicant's parent(s).

Note that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all forms are submitted by the deadline. An independent scholarship committee will review applications. To ensure that all documents are returned in a timely manner, the applicant is advised to collect the documents and submit them together. If any documents are left out of the packet it will not be submitted to the committee.

Application Packet Checklist

Use the checklist below to complete your application. Please remember that ALL documents must be received by the deadline in order for the application to be considered.

This checklist is included for the applicant to use when compiling information for the application packet.

- _____ 1. FORM A to be completed by the applicant. An essay of no more than three typewritten, double spaced pages should be attached.
- _____ 2. FORM B to be completed by the applicant (Part 1) and his/her high school counselor (Part 2). Official high school transcripts and a copy of ACT/SAT scores should be attached.
- _____ 3. FORM C to be completed by the applicant (Part 1) and his/her personal reference (Part 2). A reference letter attached – maximum: 2 pages.
- _____ 4. FORM D to be completed by the applicant's parent(s). Copies of the parent(s) most recently filed federal income tax and W-2 forms should be attached to this form.
- _____ 5. FORM E to be signed by the applicant and the applicant's parent(s).

Mail all materials to:
Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship Program
Corporate Office – Cooperative & Member Services
P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322

All materials must be received by **5 p.m. EST, March 6, 2026.**
Incomplete packets will not be considered.



FORM A

To be completed by the student

Attachments required: Essay (3 typed, double-spaced pages or less)

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program Application

All materials, including this form, must be received by the published deadline. **Type or print all information in black or blue ink.**

PART I – PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

VEC Account Number _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Parents or Guardians (please circle):

Mr. /Mrs. /Ms. _____ Occupation: _____

Mr. /Mrs. /Ms. _____ Occupation: _____

Mr. /Mrs./Ms. _____ Occupation: _____

If you have been awarded a scholarship(s) or applied for any other type of financial aid or scholarship(s), please explain:

Anticipated date/year of high school graduation _____

High School _____

Address _____

List the name and address of the college you plan to attend:

College: _____

Address: _____

What major do you intend to pursue? _____

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PART II – ESSAY – WRITTEN COMMUNICATION 20%

In an essay, explain how this scholarship would benefit you in pursuing your educational goals. The essay should be typed and double-spaced, no longer than 3 pages. Please, no colored paper. Be sure to include your name on the essay and include it with this application. Essay will be judged on subject content, composition, grammar and neatness.

PART III – COMMUNITY SERVICE – 40%

List and describe the community service activities in which you were involved during high school. This may include activities for which you volunteered, participated in leadership and civic events, or from which your community and/or its residents benefited. Please use the space provided – **DO NOT attach additional pages**. Be sure to include the activities that you feel were most beneficial. **Type or print all information in black or blue ink.**

Activity	Dates	Description

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**FORM B**

To be completed by the applicant
(Part 1) and the high school
counselor (Part 2)

Attachments required: Official high school
transcripts and a copy of ACT/SAT scores

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program Application**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT 15%**

All materials, including this form must be received by the published deadline. **Type or print all information in black or blue ink.**

PART 1 (to be completed by the applicant)

Please release my transcripts as application for the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship.

Applicant Name _____

VEC Account Number _____ Date of Graduation _____

Applicant Signature _____

PART 2 (to be completed by the high school counselor)

High School _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Anticipated Date of Graduation _____ ACT/SAT Score _____

Class Rank: This student is ranked number _____ out of a graduating class of _____ students.

Cumulative GPA (through fall semester of the senior year): _____ on a _____ scale
(i.e. 3.0 on a 4.0 scale)

Counselor Name _____

Title _____ Date _____

Phone (_____) _____

Signature _____

**Please attach an official copy of this student's transcript with grades through the
FALL SEMESTER of the senior year AND
a copy of either ACT or SAT scores to this form.**

Official transcripts, ACT/SAT scores, and this form should be returned no later than 5 p.m. **March 6, 2026.**

To: **Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship Program**
Corporate Office – Cooperative & Member Services
P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322
Phone: 423-334-1020, ext. 7052

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**FORM C**

To be completed by the applicant
(Part 1) and his/her personal
reference (Part 2)

Attachment required: Reference letter – 2
pages maximum

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program Application**CITIZENSHIP – 40%**

All materials, including this form, must be received by the published deadline. **Type or print all information in black or blue ink.**

Part 1 (to be completed by the applicant)

Applicant Name _____

VEC Account Number _____ Date of Graduation _____

Applicant Signature _____

PART 2 (to be completed by the personal reference)

Please rate the applicant based on the attributes below.

	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Concern for Others			
Energy			
Work Ethic			
Respect for Others			
Emotional Maturity			
Leadership Ability			
Self Discipline			
Creativity			
Overall Rating			

Reference Name _____

Reference Signature _____ Date _____

Important note to the personal reference: please attach a letter (no more than 2 pages) to this form, explaining the reasons you think this student is a deserving candidate for the scholarship. Keep in mind that the scholarship will be awarded based on the following criteria: community service activities and citizenship (40%), written communication skills (20%), academic achievement (15%), and financial need (25%). **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE NAME OF THE STUDENT IN THE BODY OF THE REFERENCE LETTER. WE UTILIZE ANONYMOUS JUDGING AND THIS ASSISTS US IN PREPARING JUDGES' COPIES.**

Return form and letter to student OR mail to:

**Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship Program
Corporate Office – Cooperative & Member Services**

P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322

Phone: 423-334-1020, ext. 7052

All Materials MUST reach VEC's Corporate Office no later than 5 p.m. ET **March 6, 2026.**

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**FORM D**

To be completed by the applicant's parents

Attachments required: Copies of parent(s) federal income tax and W-2 forms

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program Application**FINANCIAL – 25%**

All materials, including this form, must be received by the published deadline.

This form must be completed by applicant's parent or legal guardian. If there are extenuating circumstances or if you anticipate a major change in your financial situation for this year, attach an explanation to this form.

Student's Name _____

VEC Account number _____

Complete the questions below based on the parent's most recently filed federal tax form. **In the case of divorced parents, only include the CUSTODIAL parent's information.**

Check one: I am required not required to complete federal tax forms.
If you are not required to complete federal tax forms, stop here and sign this application.

Information based on federal income tax forms filed the year of _____.

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name _____

How many exemptions do the above individuals claim on the federal income tax forms? _____

How many of these exemptions, including the applicant for this scholarship, will be attending college this fall? _____

Father's Annual Salary _____ Mother's Annual Salary _____

Adjusted Gross Income _____

I affirm that the above information is true and correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Please attach copies of the parent's most recently filed federal tax form. The documents must show dependents and Adjusted Gross Income.

Mark out social security information.

Return form and attachments to student OR mail to:
Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship Program
Corporate Office – Cooperative & Member Services
P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322
Phone: 423-334-7052

All Materials MUST reach VEC's Corporate Office no later than 5 p.m. ET March 6, 2026.

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**FORM E**

To be completed by the applicant and
applicant's parent(s)

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program Application

All materials, **including this form, must be received by the published deadline.**

PART II - ESSAY

I hereby certify that the attached essay is my original work.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

PART V - SIGNATURES

I hereby signify that all information on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that meeting minimum criteria for this scholarship does not guarantee an award.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian
Signatures: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

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