2027 Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program

Honoring the community spirit of Willis A. Shadow and J. W. Lillard

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) established the Lillard-Shadow Scholarship to recognize students who demonstrate service to their communities and to help support their college expenses.

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 $750 per semester will be distributed for fall semester 2027. These awards are renewable for up to four semesters, with a $3,000 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.

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

- Applicant must be a graduating high school senior at a qualifying school and have a parent or legal guardian who is a VEC electric customer.
- Applicant must have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale through the fall semester of the senior year and valid ACT or SAT scores.
- Selection is based on **community service and citizenship (40%), written communication (20%), academic achievement (15%), and financial need (25%).**
- Recipient must pursue full-time 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.
- Dependents of VEC employees, VEC directors, or TVA employees are not eligible.

DEADLINE: Complete application packets must be received at VEC Corporate Headquarters by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2027. Incomplete packets will not be considered.

VEC Service Area	Qualifying Schools
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; Sale Creek High School

Students from schools other than those listed may also be eligible.

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Application Instructions & Checklist

HOW TO APPLY

- 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).

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

Note: 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.

Done	Item	Requirement
☐	FORM A - Student Application	Completed by the student; attach an essay of no more than 3 typed, double-spaced pages. Do not attach pictures.
☐	FORM B - Academic Achievement	Completed by the applicant and high school counselor; attach an official transcript through the fall semester of senior year and a copy of ACT/SAT scores.
☐	FORM C - Citizenship / Reference	Completed by the applicant and a personal reference; attach a reference letter of no more than 2 pages.
☐	FORM D - Financial Information	Completed by parent/legal guardian; attach the most recently filed federal tax form showing dependents and adjusted gross income. Mark out Social Security numbers.
☐	FORM E - Certifications & Signatures	Signed by the applicant and parent/legal guardian.

SUBMISSION

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 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2027. Incomplete packets will not be considered.

STUDENT APPLICATION

FORM A
To be completed by the student
Attachment required: Essay (3 typed, double-spaced pages or less)

Type or print clearly in black or blue ink. All materials must be received by the published deadline.

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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ESSAY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

FORM A
Student section continued

PART II - ESSAY: WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (20%)

In an essay, explain how this scholarship would benefit you in pursuing your educational goals. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 3 pages. Include your name on the essay and submit it with this application. Do not use colored paper. The essay will be evaluated for content, composition, grammar, and neatness.

PART III - COMMUNITY SERVICE (40%)

List and briefly describe your most meaningful community service activities during high school. Include volunteer work, leadership or civic activities, and other service that benefited your community or its residents. Use only the space provided; do not attach additional pages. **Type or print all information in black or blue ink.**

Activity	Dates	Description / Community Benefit

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (15%)

FORM B
Part 1: Applicant
Part 2: High school counselor
Attach transcript and ACT/SAT scores

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 APPLICANT

I authorize release of my high school transcript for consideration for the Volunteer Energy Cooperative scholarship program.

Applicant Name _____

VEC Account Number _____ Date of Graduation_____

Applicant Signature _____

PART 2 – TO BE COMPLETED BY 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 transcript showing grades through the fall semester of the senior year AND a copy of ACT or SAT scores.

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

Materials must reach VEC by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2027.

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CITIZENSHIP / PERSONAL REFERENCE (40%)

FORM C
Part 1: Applicant
Part 2: Personal reference
Attach reference letter (2 pages maximum)

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 APPLICANT

Applicant Name _____

VEC Account Number _____ Date of Graduation _____

Applicant Signature _____

PART 2 - PERSONAL REFERENCE

Please rate the applicant on each attribute below by marking one box.

Attribute	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 _____

Reference letter requirement: Attach a letter of no more than 2 pages explaining why the applicant is a deserving scholarship candidate. Because judging is anonymous, do not use the student's name in the body of the letter.

Selection criteria: community service and citizenship (40%), written communication (20%), academic achievement (15%), and financial need (25%).

Return the form and letter to the 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

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION (25%)

FORM D
To be completed by parent or legal guardian
Attach required federal tax documentation

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

Complete this form using the parent/legal guardian's most recently filed federal tax form. For divorced parents, include only the custodial parent's information. If extenuating circumstances apply or you anticipate a major change in your financial situation, attach an explanation.

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 _____

CERTIFICATION

I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date_____

Attach copies of the parent/legal guardian's most recently filed federal tax form showing dependents and Adjusted Gross Income. Mark out Social Security numbers.

Return to: Volunteer Energy Cooperative Scholarship Program
Corporate Office - Cooperative & Member Services
P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322
Phone: 423-334-7052

Materials must reach VEC by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 26, 2027.

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CERTIFICATIONS & SIGNATURES

FORM E
To be completed by applicant and parent/legal guardian

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

ESSAY CERTIFICATION

I certify that the essay submitted with this application is my original work.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that meeting the minimum eligibility criteria does not guarantee a scholarship award.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signatures: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Thank you for applying for the 2027 Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Program.

Deadline: February 26, 2027 at 5:00 p.m. ET

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