

2025 College and Career Scholarship Instructions

If you do not have Adobe Reader software, download it for free here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader>.

1. Download and open the scholarship application at www.firelandsec.com/children-members-scholarship using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Save the file to your computer.
2. Complete the first two pages using Adobe Acrobat Reader and save the file again.
3. For **high school students**, provide the application, via email or printed copy, to your principal/guidance counselor **and** a teacher to complete the faculty portion and request a letter of recommendation. It is preferred that faculty sections are typewritten, but they may be handwritten if necessary.
4. Applicants for the Career Scholarship with a **graduation date prior to June 2023** only need to supply a letter of recommendation. (The faculty portion is not required.)

Completed applications, including a transcript (HS students only) and one letter of recommendation, must be received by Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc. **no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025. Finalists will be selected to participate in an interview at the cooperative office located at 103 Industrial Drive, New London, on **Monday, Feb. 17, 2025**. Finalists will receive more information in the mail and by email prior to that date.**

Scholarship Guidelines

PURPOSE:

To encourage members to further their education and give them an opportunity to become more aware of careers in the electric cooperative industry.

FIRELANDS ELECTRIC CO-OP SCHOLARSHIPS:

- First place: \$1,800
- Second place: \$1,600
- Third place: \$1,400
- Fourth place: \$1,200
- Fifth place: \$1,000
- Sixth place: \$750
- Two Honorable Mentions: \$500 each
- Two Judges' Choice awards: \$500 each
- Two Career Scholarships:
 - High School Senior: \$1,000
 - Pre-June 2023 Graduate: \$1,000

The first-place winner from the Firelands Electric competition will advance to a competition at the statewide level for a chance to win additional college scholarships worth up to \$4,600 from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives (OEC). **This individual must be available to interview on April 16, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio.**

RULES:

To be eligible for the OEC scholarships, the following provisions will govern the acceptance of applications for Firelands Electric's scholarship program:

1. Applicants' primary residence must be a permanent, residential home receiving service from Firelands Electric Cooperative. Applicants or their parents/guardians who are solely commercial members or only have non-residential outbuildings are not eligible.
2. Applicants for **College Scholarships** must be graduating seniors who have all basic credits for college or proper vocational/technical school entrance. A "proper vocational or technical school" is defined as a post-secondary institution where credits can be transferred to a state accredited four-year college.
3. Applicants for the **Career Scholarships** must have plans to enter a career or vocational-based training program. The scholarship is intended for programs that will earn the student an associate degree **OR** another certificate of completion beyond high school level. Examples include, but are not limited to, dental hygiene, phlebotomy, nursing, vet tech, electrician, HVAC, plumbing, auto mechanics, welding, machinist, and cosmetology.
NEW! Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2025: One to a graduating high school senior and one to a member who graduated prior to June 2023.
4. High school applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of **3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale** or an equivalent standing on a non-traditional scale for all scholarships except the Career Scholarships. High school applicants for the Career Scholarship must have a minimum GPA of **2.5 or above**. **Transcripts/grades are not required for pre-June 2023 graduate applicants.**
5. Winners must be accepted and then enrolled in an accredited college or proper vocational/technical school of the students' choice before they will be issued the awards for college scholarships. The Career Scholarship winners must be enrolled in a proper vocational/technical school or career-based education/certification program of the students' choice to be issued an award.
6. Members of the immediate families and persons residing in the households of trustees, managers, distribution co-op employees, and OEC or affiliated organization employees (Buckeye Power, Inc.; RESCO; etc.) are not eligible to participate in the competition.
7. Applications must be typed and submitted on forms furnished by **Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc.** All application materials must be received by Firelands Electric Cooperative via mail or email **before 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025.**
8. Application information must be confined to the official application form with only grade transcripts (high school students only), one recommendation letter, and a recent photo attached. The recommendation should be no longer than 500 words.
9. Applicants who receive "full-ride" scholarships (i.e., scholarships that cover the cost of tuition, room, board, and books) to the school/program of their choice are not eligible for scholarships from Firelands Electric or OEC. Applicants who win a Firelands or OEC

scholarship and subsequently receive a full-ride scholarship following the scholarship competition must contact the co-op immediately to forfeit this award.

10. All scholarships must be accepted in the first academic year following the competition. An extension of up to one year may be granted for just cause in the judgment of Firelands Electric and the president of OEC. In the event students are unable to fulfill their enrollment obligation under this program, the awards are forfeited.
11. Finalists are not permitted to bring any outside materials to their interviews (e.g., notes, electronic presentations, props, handouts, etc.).
12. Finalists who have won other scholarships from OEC or affiliated organizations (this **does not** include local co-op awards) are not eligible to compete in this competition.
13. These rules (dated hereon) supersede all previous rules for this scholarship.

JUDGING:

For Firelands Electric's scholarship competition, high school student finalists will be scored up to a maximum of 40 points for scholastic record; 30 points for personal achievement and school and community activities; 20 points for personal interview with the judges; and 10 points for cooperative knowledge.

Career Scholarship applicants with a graduation date prior to June 2023 will be scored up to a maximum of 40 points for personal achievement and community activities; 40 points for personal interview with the judges; and 20 points for cooperative knowledge.

Evaluation of cooperative knowledge will be conducted through a 2-3 question assessment asked during the interview process. These questions will be based on information from the Seven Cooperative Principles Training located at www.ohioec.org/orientation. Students are encouraged to complete this course, which takes approximately twenty minutes, prior to their in-person interview.

MAIL, DELIVER, OR EMAIL THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Attn: Scholarship Coordinator
Firelands Electric Cooperative, Inc.
103 Industrial Drive
New London, OH 44851-9112
members@firelandsec.com