



Kankakee Valley R.E.M.C.

Scholarship Guidelines

Application Deadline: March 3, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. C.S.T.

GOALS: To recognize the academic and community achievements of outstanding young people and assist in developing their understanding of community issues.

ELIGIBILITY: Any youth now enrolled as a senior in high school, who plans to attend an accredited post-secondary school, and who has a parent or legal guardian that is a member-consumer of Kankakee Valley REMC and participating in Operation Round Up as of February 3, 2021 (one month prior to the application deadline) is eligible. The scholarship applies only to Kankakee Valley REMC member-consumer households, and not those of other area REMCs.

Students must complete the assigned essay along with the application to be reviewed for possible consideration for an Operation Round Up Scholarship.

AWARDS: There are Two- \$2,000.00 scholarships and Four- \$1,000.00 scholarships available. All winners and non-winners will be contacted in writing.

JUDGES: The Operation Round Up Trust board of directors will review all essays/applications. They shall hold final judgment regarding eligibility and awards.

DEADLINES: Participants may submit their application and essay any time up to March 3, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. C.S.T. Applications may be placed in the payment drop box, near the entrance of the Kankakee Valley REMC office in Wanatah, or sent to P.O. Box 157, Wanatah, IN 46390. Applications must be in the Kankakee Valley REMC office by March 3. Applications postmarked but not received until after the deadline will not be accepted. The scholarship application will only be considered complete when eight (8) copies of each of the following documents are submitted: completed application, essay and each letter of recommendation. Only one (1) copy of the students' transcripts is to be submitted. Please no staples.

JUDGING CRITERIA: The essay must be a minimum of 50 words to a maximum of 500 words. Content is much more important than length. While the essay makes up half your final score, there are other areas that are just as important. Please list other activities as well – school, church, work, in your community, etc. Also, verification of your grade point level must be provided for the current school year. You must submit at least one, no more than three, letters of recommendation. Judges will look at overall achievements and accomplishments – not just your writing ability or GPA.

ESSAY: In 50 to 500 words please write an essay on the following topic. **Your essay must be typed and double spaced.**

QUESTION: Imagine that you have been awarded a grant for \$2,000 to be used for a community or neighborhood improvement project of your choice. Explain in detail your project and how it would benefit your community or neighborhood. Please be sure to describe the steps that you would take to complete the project. You must include an itemized cost description for your proposed project.

SCORING: Applications will be evaluated on the following:

50% **ESSAY:** The essay will be judged on originality and content. Is it informative and thought provoking? Are assertions and comments supported with facts or practical ideas? Is it written from a young person's point of view?

Remember, the essay should be the work of the student applying for the scholarship. Editing, grammar, sentence structure etc., will be considered.

30% **COMMUNITY/SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT:** Student activities in school, at home, community, work, etc., will enhance a student's application. Be sure to mention any special recognitions, offices you now or have held in the past, or awards you might have received.

20% **ACADEMICS/LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Each applicant must verify their academic standing for the current school year, and at least the previous year as well. For your application to be accepted, a copy of your transcript is required. The transcript must be signed by a school official. Class ranking, if possible, is also helpful. You must submit at least one, no more than three, letters of recommendation from non-family members (teacher, employer, community leader, guidance counselor, pastor etc.) An exception is permitted to home schooled applicants who wish to have a letter presented from a parent instructor.

Award Requirements: Should you be awarded an Operation Round Up scholarship, you will be required to complete two of the activities below to receive your full scholarship amount. Half of the scholarship will be awarded at your school sponsored awards program. The other half will be paid after you complete two of the below activities. Activities must be completed by January 14, 2022. Failure to complete two activities will result in forfeiting the remaining half of your scholarship.

Activity options:

1. Attend a KV REMC board meeting. Meetings take place monthly and are held at the KV REMC office.
2. Attend the KV REMC Annual Meeting on June 10 at the Porter County Expo Center.
3. Job shadow for the day at KV REMC.
4. Participate in a community activity alongside KV REMC employees. Dates to be determined.

HELPFUL HINTS: Keep in mind the judges want essays written by young people. Help from parents or a teacher is encouraged, but the emphasis should be on your ideas and thoughts.