



Application for Academic Scholarship 2025-2026

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Student Email: _____

High School: _____

Proposed Field of Study: _____

Intended Institute of Higher Learning: _____

Transcripts: Please attach copies of your high school transcript, a description of involvement, and a 500-word typewritten essay with bibliography to this application and return by mail to:

Scholarship Program

Benton Rural Electric Association

PO Box 1150, Prosser, WA 99350 *(no later than January 12, 2026)*

**Application packets may also be delivered in person to either Benton REA office location:
6095 W Van Giesen Street, West Richland or 402 7th Street, Prosser**

I am a high school senior, my parents or legal guardians are members of the Benton Rural Electric Association with an active electric account, and my primary residence is within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties.

I understand that I am required to submit a 500-word Essay with Bibliography on the topic identified on page 2 as well as a Description of Involvement as described in **Provisions for Academic Scholarship** (<https://bentonrea.org/youth>)

I have read and understand that my Application, Essay, Description of Involvement, and High School Transcript must be submitted to Benton Rural Electric Association **no later than January 12, 2026**, or I will not be considered as a candidate for this year's Academic Scholarship Program.

I understand that if selected to receive a Benton REA Academic Scholarship, I must agree to:

1. Accept the initial award of the scholarship in person at the upcoming Benton REA Annual Meeting and to help at the meeting or make other arrangements that are pre-approved by the Benton REA.
2. I understand that if I am awarded a Benton REA Academic Scholarship and, for some unforeseen reason, I am not able to continue with my education or training, I must notify the Benton REA Member Services Department immediately so that one of the alternates may receive the scholarship.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Benton REA Academic Scholarship Program
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Parent/Guardian Information

Parent or Guardian: _____

Benton REA **Electric** Account # _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

2025-26 Scholarship Program Essay Topic

Nearly 90 years ago, rural areas, including those in Eastern Washington, formed electric cooperatives through the Rural Electrification Act. While many people doubted it could be successful, these not-for-profit organizations brought electricity to communities that had never experienced it. More than just power, the cooperatives gave rural Americans ownership and a voice, transforming rural life and creating lasting progress.

Write an essay about an initiative you took in your life – or when people doubted that you would be successful, and how you pursued that goal.

Benton REA Academic Scholarship Program 2025-2026 School Year

Provisions for Academic Scholarship

I Eligible Candidates

All children of Benton REA members, or members themselves, are eligible candidates; excluding any person serving on the Selection Committee, any Benton REA employee, or any Benton REA board member, or the children of any of these excluded individuals. Part-time Benton REA student employees are not included under the "Benton REA employee" exclusion.

II Student Qualification Conditions

- A. At the time of initial application, the candidate must be a graduating high school senior.
- B. Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, or training institution.
 - 1. The candidate may be enrolled in any field of study.
 - 2. A candidate may use a scholarship at any accredited college, university or training institution that leads to an undergraduate bachelor's degree.
- C. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the candidate, or the candidate, must be a member of Benton REA with the member's primary residence located within Benton, Yakima, or Lewis counties.
- D. Recipients agree to participate in the next Association annual meeting. If the scholarship recipient is unable to attend the annual meeting, they must make acceptable alternative arrangements with the manager of Community Development and Member Relations, or his/her designee.
- E. The recipient must have completed all requirements necessary to be fully matriculated at the beginning of the term.

III Application Procedures

- A. Applicants for academic scholarships must complete an application form, a description of involvement, submit a 500-word typewritten essay with a bibliography on the topic listed on page two of the scholarship application and include a copy of their high school transcript. **Submission of SAT or ACT scores is currently being waived.**
- B. All applications for the annual scholarship must be received prior to the deadline for submitting the application and essay.

IV Selection Criteria

- A. General Selection Criteria will include the following considerations:
 - 1. Meet all eligibility requirements.
 - 2. Submission of 500-word essay with bibliography, as assigned.
 - 3. Grade Point Average. A copy of the applicant's transcript must be provided.
 - 4. Description of student's school involvement, extra-curricular activities, hobbies, special interests and/or talents, including information showing the level of involvement in school, leadership skills, and concern or support of the community. Supporting materials are encouraged, such as certificates, pictures, and videos.
- B. The following point scale will be utilized for determining the five recipients of the annual scholarship funds:

Description	Possible Points
500-Word Essay – Review Committee	0 - 15
500-Word Essay – Selection Committee	0 - 25
Involvement & Activities – Review Committee	0 - 30
• 0-10 points for school involvement	
• 0-10 points for community involvement	
• 0-10 points for hobbies, talents & special interests	
Grade Point Average	<u>0 - 30</u>
Total Possible Points	100

V Limitations

- A. Scholarships will be awarded for one (1) school year at a time.
- B. Scholarships will be paid directly to the recipient's college, university, or training institute of choice upon Benton REA's receipt of appropriate evidence that the recipient has been accepted as a full-time student.
- C. First priority use of Academic Scholarship funds must be to pay tuition. If money remains after tuition is paid, the candidate may purchase books and submit documented receipts to the Benton REA Review Committee to obtain reimbursement of such expense. Clothing, transportation, appliances, telephones, and food do not qualify for payment.
- D. Unused scholarship funds will be retained by Benton REA. Unused funds may result if a student is over financed or if a recipient ceases to be a student. Scholarship funds that have been sent to a college or university that are not used by a qualifying recipient shall be refunded to Benton REA, not to the student.
- E. Scholarships are not assignable.
- F. Recipients of a continuing education scholarship must maintain an annual cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to remain in the program. The student must provide Benton REA with a **certified** transcript of their GPA from the school by August 1st of each year. If the recipient's annual cumulative GPA is below 3.0 but higher than 2.75, the recipient may apply to the Association requesting the scholarship be reinstated if the recipient remains enrolled as a full-time student and maintains a GPA of 3.0 or higher in all the grading periods for the subsequent school year. Application for reinstatement must be in written form with the GPA requirements verified by a certified transcript from the educational institution. The ability to apply for reinstatement expires 13 months following Benton REA's receipt of the certified transcript in which the initial annual cumulative GPA requirements were not met. The reinstatement provisions within this section shall not change, or modify the intent of, any of the other provisions in this policy.
- G. Access to the scholarship fund for an academic scholarship is valid for a limited time, not to exceed six (6) years from the date of initial enrollment in an accredited college, university or training institution and the funds shall only be disbursed for a period not to exceed four (4) school years. Academic scholarships are to be paid out at \$2,000 for each school year, subject to listed provisions to assist successful academic scholarship applicants with earning an undergraduate bachelor's degree. Academic scholarship recipients can attend a community college and transfer to a university as they work towards earning an undergraduate bachelor's degree. If a scholarship recipient provides a schedule that verifies the recipient will complete an undergraduate bachelor's degree program in less than four school years, as determined by the Benton REA Review Committee, all remaining funds of the \$8,000 scholarship will be paid in the final year.
- H. Continuing access to scholarship funds is contingent upon the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) continuing their membership with Benton REA with their primary residence located within Benton County, Lewis County, or Yakima County.