



Kankakee Valley R.E.M.C.

## **Scholarship Guidelines**

**Application Deadline: March 1, 2019 at 3:00 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 1, 2019 (one month prior to the application deadline) is eligible. The scholarship applies only to Kankakee Valley REMC member 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 1, 2019 at 3:00 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. Each participant must submit eight (8) copies of the 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 – at school, church, at 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 you would take to complete the 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.

**25% 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.

**25% 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, your guidance department must fill in the appropriate line on the application and sign verifying your GPA. A copy of your transcript is required. 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.

**POSSIBLE INTERVIEW FOR FINALISTS:** In the event the judging is close, several finalists may be asked to take part in an interview with the judges. The interview will be kept very informal and will be brief and will focus on a student's goals, personality, initiative, etc.

**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.