

Policy Type:	Member Policy
Policy No:	311
Title:	Scholarships
Date Reviewed:	February 25, 2025
Date Revised:	February 25, 2025

SUBJECT: SCHOLARSHIPS

I. **OBJECTIVE:** To establish policy concerning the awarding of scholarships to graduating high school students within SMPA's service territory. SMPA wishes to establish a process for the awarding of SMPA funds that will be fair and equitable for all qualified students. The objective is to assist in the continued education of such students.

II. **POLICY:** It shall be the policy of SMPA to:

- A. Award a scholarship each Spring to a graduating high school senior. All recipients must reside in SMPA's service territory.
- B. Two scholarships (one Vocational and one Collegiate) shall be available in the amount of \$3,000 to each high school having qualified applicant(s). An alternate will be selected for each scholarship should the original recipient not claim theirs.
- C. Additional scholarships sponsored by associate organizations to be awarded by SMPA, i.e. Tri-State G&T and Basin Electric, shall be awarded following this policy as well.
- D. An additional scholarship is available from Basin Electric for dependents of SMPA employees. The selection committee shall choose one application to forward to Basin Electric to be entered into that pool of applicants which shall be separate from and possibly in addition to SMPA scholarships.
- E. In addition to a completed application, all students wishing to be considered for a scholarship shall provide the following additional information:
 1. Transcript of grades
 2. Essay of at least 250 words on a subject selected by SMPA
 3. Community involvement
 4. Intended course of study
 5. One letter of reference
 6. Residency
- F. A selection committee comprised of qualified professionals shall evaluate applications. The selection committee will make reasonable efforts to prevent favoritism in the selection of winners.
- G. Applications for the scholarship will be judged by the following criteria:
 1. Completed application
 2. Grade Point Average
 3. Essay
 4. Community involvement

- H. Scholarship checks shall be issued in the student's name and the institution they will be attending. Checks will be handed out at the SMPA annual meeting or mailed to recipients after the annual meeting date.
- I. Each scholarship awarded by SMPA shall be used in the year that it is awarded. If the recipient cannot accept or use the scholarship during that year, the scholarship will then be awarded to the runner up. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.
- J. Collegiate scholarships ***may be used at any accredited institution within or outside of the United States*** that grants four-year (Bachelor's level) degrees.
- K. Vocational scholarships ***may be used at any accredited institution within or outside of the United States*** that grants vocational certification, or two-year (Associate's level) degrees.

III. RESPONSIBILITY: It shall be the responsibility of the General Manager/CEO to see that this policy is implemented and followed.