

Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures Effective August 2023

St. Mary's Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church (SMG) rejoices at the opportunity to assist students with furthering their education. Kindly note that scholarship awards are contingent upon the availability of funds with priority going to SMG members and their children.

A member is a person included on the official membership roster of the church.

- Eligibility & Selection Criteria & Requirements -
 - SMG Direct Affiliation
 - Active member of SMG Church, or
 - Active member of SMG Sunday School, or
 - Child of either one of the above.
 - SMG Member Recommendation - The nominating member will submit the completed application to the Scholarship Committee along with the following documents:
 - A written recommendation letter from the nominating member
 - A written letter of request from the applicant stating why he or she desires the scholarship
 - A written recommendation letter from a non-family member of the applicant such as a teacher, employer, pastor, etc.
 - Current Status
 - Accepted to an institution of higher learning, or
 - Enrolled in an institution of higher learning

NOTE: A scholarship application will not be considered unless it is accompanied by a copy of the applicant's most recent academic transcript.

- Amount Annually
 - Up to \$1000 per academic year, based on application request
 - Applicant may request two semester payments of \$500 each or a lesser total amount
- Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution of higher learning on a student's account. No funds will be issued directly to the student from the church..
- Renewal Requirements
 - Grades - Must be in good academic standing (Overall GPA 2.0 or higher)
 - Renewal Term - annually, not to exceed 4 **consecutive** years (proposing to eliminate the word "consecutive")
 - Students who accept scholarship funds and drop out without just cause are not eligible for renewal awards
 - Students who withdraw due to unexpected/emergency circumstances may reapply for scholarship renewal. A letter of explanation for the withdrawal must accompany the application.

- Academic Probation (Overall GPA falls below 2.0)
 - Overall GPA examined at the end of an academic year - i.e. spring semester excluding summer school.
 - Students may request a renewal by completing the application form and providing written documentation of the reason for the drop in GPA.
 - Students have one academic year to increase overall GPA to the minimum. (For example, overall GPA at end of spring semester 2023 is 1.95. Overall GPA must be 2.0 or higher at end of spring semester 2024)

- Application Deadlines
 - Third Sunday in May for an academic year or fall semester only
 - Third Sunday in October for a spring semester only

- Selection Committee
 - One representative from the Deacon Board, Gladys Adams Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Brotherhood, Youth Group, and the congregation at large
 - Immediate relatives of applicants may not participate on the selection committee
 - Service term is a minimum of one year that runs concurrently with the church year (September 1, 2020- through August 31, 2021)

- Letter of Award -
 - Each recipient will receive a letter of award that can be sent to the institution of higher learning if desired.
 - Awards will be presented to recipients in a church service annually

Scholarship guidelines will be reviewed annually in March for revisions/recommendations.

**(Approved at SMG Annual Mtg. 2020 to begin awards in Spring Semester 2021)
 (Revisions approved at SMG Annual Mtg. 2023 to become effective immediately)**