



2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

POWER YOUR FUTURE

We're making it happen: \$200,000 available for students like you. Headed to college? Technical school? We're here to help. TCEC is awarding 40 scholarships of \$5,000 each to high school seniors pursuing their educational goals.

Are You Eligible?

- Current high school senior graduating in 2026?
- Parents/Guardians are TCEC members?
- Planning to attend college or technical school?
- You're eligible!

Application Requirements:

- Online Application Form
- Official Transcript
- Essay: 500-word maximum
- Professional Headshot
- Two Recommendation Letters
- Activities Resume

Application Timeline:

Opens: October 13, 2025

Closes: February 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Winners announced: April 2026

Winners reception: May 2026

Have Questions?

Join us for a live Q&A session where you can ask questions directly to TCEC representatives.

November 1, 2025, at 10 AM

December 1, 2025, at 7 PM

Registration required:
[Visit tcectexas.com/scholarships](http://tcectexas.com/scholarships)



Required Items to Submit

1. Completed Online Application Form

- Basic personal information
- High school details
- College/Trade School plans
- TCEC account information
- Family/financial information



2. Official High School Transcript

- Must show minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Must be official (with school seal/signature)

3. Essay (500 words maximum)

- Choose ONE of six essay prompts
- Can type directly in the form OR upload as a file

4. Recent Headshot Photo

- High-resolution
- Professional quality (suitable for publicity)
- Digital format (JPEG preferred)

5. Two Letters of Recommendation

- From non-family members
- Must be submitted directly by recommenders (not by you)
- Sources: teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, community leaders

6. Activities Summary (PDF Resume or PDF Document)

- Community service and volunteer work
- Leadership roles
- Work experience
- Academic honors and awards
- Extracurricular activities

7. Certification & E-Signature

Before you submit, you will be required to read and agree to each statement:

- I certify that all information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that false or misleading information may result in disqualification.
- I meet all eligibility requirements (high school senior graduating 2026, minimum 2.5 GPA, dependent of active TCEC member, not an immediate family member of TCEC Leadership Team).
- I understand that my recommenders must submit their letters directly to TCEC by February 13, 2026.
- I understand that scholarship funds will be distributed directly to my educational institution.
- I give TCEC permission to use my name and photo for publicity purposes if selected as a scholarship winner.

Submitting Your Online Application

Step 1: Complete the Online Form

- Visit tcectexas.com/scholarships
- Click on the application link for Class of 2026
- Fill out all required fields in the Form
- You can type your essay directly in the form OR upload it at the end of the form.
- Upload these files:
 1. Official transcript (PDF preferred)
 2. Recent headshot photo (JPEG preferred)
 3. Essay (if you didn't type it in the form)
 4. A resume or document listing any community service, leadership roles, and extracurricular activities you want to share with the committee.
- Click Submit to send your application to TCEC.

Important File Naming Process:

- Always include your first and last name at the beginning of each filename
- Use clear labels: Transcript, Photo, Essay, etc. (Example: *Beth_Jones_Transcript_2026*)
- Accepted formats: PDF for documents, JPEG/PNG for photos

Step 2: Letters of Recommendation

- Your recommenders must submit letters directly (not through you):
- Email submissions: communications@tcectexas.com
- Mail submissions: TCEC Scholarship Program, Attention: Communications Department, 600 NW Parkway Street, Azle, TX 76020
- Tell your recommenders:
 - To include your full name on the letters
 - To include your name in their email subject line (*Example: Beth Jones Scholarship Letter of Recommendation*)

NOTE: We MUST RECEIVE your letters no later than: February 13, 2026.

Essay Guidelines

The TCEC team work to embody 10 Essential Attributes that align with our values as a cooperative. These attributes are how we show up for our peers and members every day.



Your essay and application should demonstrate how you live out these values at home, school and in your community:

- **Collaborative:** Working together toward common goals
- **Humble:** Showing modesty while taking pride in your work
- **Resilient:** Adapting and overcoming challenges with grace
- **Engaged:** Demonstrating commitment to your community
- **Trustworthy:** Doing the right thing when no one's watching
- **Empathetic:** Understanding and supporting others' perspectives
- **Responsible:** Taking ownership of your actions and commitments
- **Reliable:** Following through consistently on your word
- **Communicative:** Listening actively and expressing yourself clearly
- **Coachable:** Being open to feedback and continuous learning

Essay Prompts (Choose 1)

Maximum 500 words

Option 1: Cooperative Values in Action

Describe a time when you demonstrated collaborative and responsible leadership to help your school, team, or community achieve something important while being mindful of resources. How do cooperative values align with your future goals?

Key TCEC Attributes: Collaborative, Responsible, Engaged, Trustworthy

Option 2: Reliability and Trust

Describe a situation where others were counting on you to deliver something important, even when facing challenges. How did you demonstrate reliability and resilience? How will you apply these qualities in your career?

Key TCEC Attributes: Reliable, Resilient, Trustworthy, Responsible

Option 3: Safety and Service

Tell us about a time when you identified a potential problem or risk in your school or community and took action to address it. How did your empathetic and communicative approach create positive change?

Key Attributes: Empathetic, Communicative, Engaged, Responsible

Option 4: Efficient Resource Management

Describe a project where you had to work within limited resources (budget, time, materials, or people) to achieve a meaningful goal. How did you demonstrate humility, collaboration, and creative problem-solving?

Key Attributes: Humble, Collaborative, Resilient, Coachable

Option 5: Member Mindset

Describe a time when you actively listened to different perspectives in your community and worked to find solutions that benefited everyone. How did you balance various viewpoints while staying focused on the common good?

Key Attributes: Communicative, Empathetic, Collaborative, Coachable

Option 6: Powering Tomorrow's Communities

What challenge do you see facing your generation that will require long-term commitment and community-focused approach? How have you already begun developing skills to address this challenge? Describe how you embody the cooperative spirit.

Key Attributes: Engaged, Resilient, Trustworthy, Reliable, Coachable

Essay Tips

What Makes a Strong Essay

Specific Examples: Use concrete details, not general statements

Personal Growth: Show how the experience changed or developed you

Community Impact: Demonstrate understanding of serving others

Cooperative Values: Clear connection to TCEC's mission and attributes

Future Vision: Explain how you'll apply these lessons

Suggested Structure

Opening: Set the scene and introduce your main example

Body: Provide specific details about your actions and decisions

Connection: Link your experience to TCEC's cooperative values

Future Focus: Explain how this shapes your future goals

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q: Can I apply if I'm homeschooled?

A: Yes! You must meet the graduation and residency requirements and provide an official transcript.

Q: What types of schools can I attend with this scholarship?

A: Any accredited university, college, junior college, or technical school.

Q: Should I apply if my GPA is exactly 2.5?

A: Yes! Meeting the minimum makes you eligible. Focus on highlighting your strengths in other areas.

Application Process

Q: Can I save my application and finish it later?

A: No. The online application allows you to work on it in one session. We recommend preparing your answers in advance.

Q: Which essay prompt should I choose?

A: Choose the one that best showcases your experiences and demonstrates cooperative values. All prompts are equally weighted.

Q: What if I haven't done much community service?

A: It's not too late! Consider volunteering with local organizations or finding ways to help in your community before the deadline.

Q: How should my recommenders submit their letters?

A: They must submit directly via email to communications@tcectexas.com or by mail. They cannot submit through you. Make sure to give them your Submission ID!

Technical & Submission

Q: What if I submit my application and need to make changes?

A: Contact TCEC immediately at communications@tcectexas.com. Depending on timing, changes may or may not be possible.

Q: I'm having trouble uploading files. What should I do?

A: Contact communications@tcectexas.com for technical support. Don't wait until the deadline!

Q: What file formats are accepted?

A: PDF for documents (transcript, essay), JPEG or PNG for photos. Always include your first and last name at the beginning of each filename. Use clear labels: Transcript, Photo, Essay, etc. (Example: Beth_Jones_Transcript_2026)

Q: What if I didn't receive a confirmation email?

A: Check your spam folder first. If you still don't see it, contact communications@tcectexas.com.

Selection Process

Q: Who reviews the applications?

A: An independent third-party organization not affiliated with Tri-County Electric evaluates all applications to ensure fair and unbiased selection.

Q: What criteria are used to select winners?

A: Selection is based on academic achievement, community involvement, leadership experience, essay quality, and letters of recommendation.

Q: Is financial need a factor?

A: While the application includes financial information, awards are not solely based on need. The program considers academic achievement, community involvement, and leadership potential.

Awards & Funding

Q: Are these scholarships renewable?

A: These are one-time \$5,000 awards.

Q: When will scholarship funds be distributed?

A: Funds are typically distributed directly to your educational institution. Specific timing will be communicated to winners.

Q: Will this scholarship affect my other financial aid?

A: It may impact your financial aid package. Consult with your school's financial aid office.

Insights & Help

Contact Information

- Email: communications@tcectexas.com
- Website: tcectexas.com/scholarships

Best Practices

- Allow 1-2 business days for email responses
- Contact early if you have technical issues
- Don't wait until the deadline to ask questions

Tips for a Strong Application

Start Early

- Begin your application when it opens in October
- Give yourself time to gather transcripts and write a thoughtful essay
- Contact recommenders at least 3-4 weeks before the deadline

Be Specific

- Use concrete examples in your essay
- Provide detailed descriptions of your activities and accomplishments
- Show, don't just tell

Make Connections

- Link your experiences to TCEC's essential attributes
- Demonstrate your understanding of cooperative values
- Explain how you'll apply these lessons in the future

Proofread Everything

- Check for spelling and grammar errors
- Have someone else review your essay
- Ensure all information is accurate and complete

Follow Instructions

- Submit all required materials by the deadline
- Ensure your recommenders submit their letters on time

Application Checklist

Before you start the application

Make sure you have:

- Chosen your essay prompt and written your 500-word essay
- Have a PDF copy of your official high school transcript
- Have a high-resolution headshot photo, JPEG or PNG
- Have a PDF copy of your resume OR document listing any community service, leadership roles, and extracurricular activities you want to share with the committee.

After Submission:

- Save your confirmation email
- Contact your recommenders to remind/confirm submission of their letters to TCEC
- Keep a copy of all submitted materials for your records

Ready to Apply?

- Visit tcectexas.com/scholarships to begin your application!
- Remember: **The deadline is February 13, 2026, at 11:59 PM.** Don't wait. Start your application today. Good luck!



