Touchstone Energy® Adversity Scholarship 2027

Scholarship Instructions

If you do not have Adobe Reader software, it is a free download available here: https://get.adobe.com/reader/. (If you do not want to install **McAfee Security Scan Plus** and **True Key™ by Intel Security,** uncheck their boxes prior to downloading.)

1. **Open the application file using Adobe Reader and save it.**
2. **Complete the first two pages using Adobe Reader.**
3. **Save the file again, then print all pages.**

Take the application to a teacher and your guidance counselor to complete the faculty portion. It is preferred those sections are typewritten; however, they may be handwritten if necessary.

Give the "Rules for Letter of Recommendation" to the person who will write this letter.

Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by February 12, 2027. Scholarship interviews will be held on March 2, 2027. Applicants will receive additional information in the mail prior to that date.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

The local cash scholarship award is **$1,000.**

Scholarship Rules

PURPOSE:

The **Touchstone Energy® Adversity Scholarship** has been created to reward those students who have committed themselves to the pursuance of a college education despite unique and substantial personal challenges **outside of work or extracurricular commitments** which may have befallen them. This special scholarship rewards students expressing the same values in their lives as the Touchstone Energy® brand:

- **Accountability** – the candidate demonstrates a high level of maturity through accountability for their actions;
- **Integrity** – the candidate expresses highest standards of character;
- **Innovation** – the candidate demonstrates innovation and determination in coping with their circumstances;
- **Commitment to Community** – the candidate has good citizenship traits and a record of contribution to their local community.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Applicants must be the child or legal ward of a **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric's** permanent residential member receiving service for the duration of the 2026-2027 academic year (August 2026 - June 2027). Children/wards of electric distribution cooperative commercial members are not eligible unless they are also residential members of **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric**.

2. Applicants must be graduating seniors who have all basic credits for college or proper vocational or technical school entrance. (A "proper vocational or technical school" is defined as a post-secondary institution where credits can be transferred to a state-accredited four-year college.)

3. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or an equivalent standing on a nontraditional scale. Winners, in order to receive an award, must be accepted and then enrolled in an accredited college or proper vocational/technical school of the student's choice. Winners who are accepted and then enrolled in an accredited school of nursing, working toward a degree, are also eligible.

4. A minimum of one Letter of Recommendation is required from independent sponsors (e.g., school representative, church or community leader, etc.) that explains how the applicant's character, combined with their faced hardship, has played roles in enabling him/her to succeed. Character traits such as integrity, innovation and accountability should be mentioned. Specific examples of situations that show these character traits and other strong traits are encouraged. Consideration will be given to nominees who have overcome substantial personal or family hardships and have demonstrated achievement through personal initiative and good citizenship. **If you cannot provide a letter from an outside sponsor, please provide your own letter explaining why.**

5. Members of the immediate families and persons residing in the households of trustees, managers, distribution cooperative employees and OEC or affiliated organizations (Buckeye Power, Inc., RESCO, etc.) employees are not eligible to participate in the competition.

6. Applications must be submitted (typed or printed neatly to be accepted) on forms furnished by **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric** and submitted to **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric**.

7. Application information must be confined to the official nomination form with no attachments other than grade transcripts, and one Letter of Recommendation, the guidelines for which are attached.

8. Applicants who receive "full-ride" scholarships (i.e., scholarships that cover the cost of tuition, room, board and books) to the schools of their choice are not eligible for scholarships from OEC. Applicants who win an OEC scholarship and subsequently receive a full-ride scholarship following the OEC scholarship competition, must contact OEC immediately to forfeit this scholarship.

9. All scholarships must be accepted in the first academic year after proof of enrollment is received by OEC. However, an extension of one year may be granted for just cause in the judgment of the president of OEC. In the event students are unable to fulfill their enrollment obligation under this program, the awards are forfeited.

10. Finalists are not permitted to bring any outside materials to their interviews (e.g., electronic presentations, props, handouts, etc.).

11. These rules (dated hereon) supersede all previous rules for this scholarship.

12. All rules stated within this document conform to the policies and program guidelines as set forth by **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric** and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

13. Previous years' applications will not be accepted.

Rules for Letter of Recommendation

Please give this guide sheet to the writer of the Letter of Recommendation.

The Touchstone Energy® Achievement Scholarship was created to reward those students who have committed themselves to the pursuance of a college education despite unique personal challenges which may have befallen them. Please use the following guidelines to help form your letter of recommendation.

Please include your name, organization, position, address, and phone number at the top of the letter.

CHARACTER
Explains how the applicant's character has played roles in enabling him/her to succeed. Character traits such as integrity, innovation and accountability should be mentioned.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS
Outlines the nominee's relevant life experiences and traits that clearly demonstrate determination in the face of adversity and/or commitment to community.

The Letter of Recommendation should clarify the special challenge(s) the student has dealt with and focus on the character traits that helped the student overcome the challenge(s). The suggested outline will answer the following points:

- How does the writer of the Letter of Recommendation know the applicant?
- What is/are the unique challenge(s) the applicant has had to struggle with as he/she pursued an education? Include detail of the circumstances or situation and the duration.
- What control did the applicant have over the challenge(s)?
- What steps has the applicant taken to deal with the challenge(s)?
- What character traits did the applicant use to help him/her triumph over the challenge(s)?
- What outstanding accomplishments has the applicant achieved in spite of the challenge(s)?
- Other pertinent comments from the letter writer.
- Overview: Why do you think the applicant should be awarded the scholarship?

Please return your completed letter to the student for attachment to the application form. Limit letter to one page, please.
It is preferred that the letters be typewritten or computer printed.

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Applications must be submitted to *Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.* Deadline Date: *February 12, 2027*
An Official School Transcript and Letter of Recommendation, must be attached.

1) Have you received a "Full Ride" scholarship to the school of your choice? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2) Are members of your family, or persons residing in your household, employed by **any** electric cooperatives / related entities (see rule 5)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3) Are your parents/guardians permanent residential members of **Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

4) Have you faced an adversity or hardship, outside of work or school obligations, that qualifies you for this scholarship opportunity? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered Yes to question 1 & 2) and/or No to questions 2 & 3) – Thank you for your interest in our scholarship, but you do not qualify.

THE FIRST TWO PAGES OF THIS APPLICATION FORM MUST BE TYPED TO BE ACCEPTED.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Student Email: _____ Parent Email: _____

Parents' names: _____

Parents' phones: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name of High School: _____

Address of High School: _____

By what college(s) or accredited technical school(s) have you been accepted?

_____

Major(s)?

_____

Official School Transcript Must Be Attached.

All rules stated within this document conform to the policies and program guidelines as set forth by the local sponsoring

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Discuss the barriers you faced that made it difficult to achieve your goals below.

(Confine information to the space below.)

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS:

List the special achievements accomplished during your high school years either related to school activities or other than school activities, including any scholastic awards you may have received.

Activity/Achievement	# of years	Remarks

NON-SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS: *(Other)*

List of other accomplishments that show leadership skills, citizenship achievements, work skills, or unique challenges overcome to achieve an education:

Activity/Achievement	# of years	Remarks

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STATEMENT OF APPLICANT, PARENT OR GUARDIAN

We have examined this application and the records are true, complete and accurate. In addition, we acknowledge and agree that the Cooperative and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, Inc. may disclose any or all of the information contained in this application and the supporting documents and letters of recommendation and nomination, or otherwise provided in connection with this application, to the judges of the scholarship competition and to any employees of the Cooperative or of Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Date ***Must be original, handwritten signatures.***	Applicant
	Parent / Guardian

These signatures are to be affixed prior to forwarding the application to high school officials.

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This page may be typed or handwritten.
This page is to be completed by the High School Principal or Counselor.

Scholarship Applicant's Name: _____

SCHOLASTIC RECORD
High school scholastic record by years: **Attach transcript of applicant's grades signed by school official.**
Applicant's information must be confined to the official nomination form with no attachments other than grade transcripts and a copy of grade point scale, if applicable.

Since grade point scales vary by district, please provide a brief explanation of your school's grade point scale (e.g. "out of a possible 4.0") or include a copy and /or description of the scale with the transcript.

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____ **(2.0 or above)**

☐ Based on a 4.0 scale
☐ Based on a 5.0 scale
☐ Based on a blended grading scale

ACT Composite (if applicable): _____

SAT Composite (if applicable): _____

☐ I verify that the scholastic awards listed by the student on page 2 of this application are accurate.

Print Name: _____ Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Official School Transcript Must be Attached.

All rules stated within this document conform to the policies and program guidelines as set forth by the local sponsoring Cooperative and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
Previous years' applications will not be accepted