



## **2017 Competition for High School Seniors to Win a \$5,000 Scholarship**

(one scholarship will be awarded in Brunswick County and one in Columbus County area)

### **APPLICATION PACKAGE INSTRUCTIONS**

How to apply:

- 1) Check to be sure you meet the Eligibility Criteria (see page 2).
- 2) Fill out the attached BEMC Scholarship Highway Application Form or go to [www.bemc.org](http://www.bemc.org) (Community Services page) and download a Microsoft Word document that can be filled out on your computer.
- 3) Attach your typed, double-spaced essay (1,000 to 1,500 words, maximum of 3 pages) with your research and thoughts on this question:

**There are seven Cooperative Principles that all cooperatives abide by, which distinguish Brunswick Electric, an electric cooperative, from other business models.**

**Taken together, the first three principles mean that electric cooperatives are owned by their members, and that the co-op's only purpose is to serve and answer to its members. This is different from other utilities that are owned by investors whose primary goal is to make a profit.**

**Tell us what is important about this difference.**

- 4) Attach letters of recommendation – up to two from current teachers and one character reference letter. (These may not be from a family member.)
- 5) Attach letter of acceptance from college or other school.
- 6) Meet with your guidance counselor to check for completeness, to verify academic information and attach a copy of your high school transcript. Guidance counselor must review and sign the application.
- 7) Make a copy for yourself and **submit your application to your guidance counselor by Friday, MARCH 17, 2017.**

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Kim Mayo at [Kimberly.mayo@bemc.org](mailto:Kimberly.mayo@bemc.org) or 800-842-5871

**Headquarters:**  
795 Ocean Hwy West  
Supply, NC 28462

**PO Box 826**  
Shallotte, NC 28459  
910.754.4391  
800.842.5871  
Fax: 910.755.4299

**Whiteville Office:**  
PO Box 890  
Whiteville, NC 28472  
910.642.5011

**Southport/Oak Island Office:**  
PO Box 10549  
Southport, NC 28461  
910.457.9808

**BEMC Scholarship Highway Program Details:**

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) will award two (2) scholarships of \$5,000 each to high school seniors, one from Brunswick County and one from the Columbus County area. In addition to public high school students, those attending private schools or home schools may apply if they meet the eligibility criteria below.

The awards will be based on a combination of:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Academic achievement including SAT scores  | 20% |
| Participation in community activities      | 15% |
| Participation in school-related activities | 15% |
| Letters of reference and                   | 10% |
| Essay                                      | 40% |

**ELIGIBILITY:** (must meet all of the following criteria)

- be a U.S. Citizen;
- attend a high school located in Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen or Robeson County;
- live in a residence receiving electric service from BEMC;
- be the dependent of a BEMC member with a permanent primary residence that currently receives electric service from BEMC;
- have been accepted at an accredited 2-year community college, 4-year college/university, or a vocational/technical school for full-time status of 12 or more credit hours;
- plan to start school in the fall following graduation from high school.

**JUDGING:**

Judging will be done by panels of educators at Brunswick Community College and Southeastern Community College. Final approval will be by the Board of Directors of BEMC. All applicants will be notified of the results in writing.

**DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Scholarships will be presented to the winning senior in Brunswick and Columbus counties at the senior awards program at their high school in May. BEMC will issue a press release and publicize the award on its website, Facebook page and other publications.

Payment of the scholarship funds will be made directly to the school the student is attending, upon presentation of the tuition bill and payment request form to BEMC at the beginning of each semester. Student must maintain a GPA of 2.4 or higher to qualify for payment.

2-year community college or vocational/technical program:

\$5,000 scholarship will be spread over 4 semesters @ \$1,250 per semester

4-year college or university:

\$5,000 scholarship will be spread over the first 2 semesters @ \$2,500 per semester

If a student does not complete a semester and/or fails to return to school for the following semester, unused funds are to be returned by the school to BEMC. Any remaining balance of the scholarship will be forfeited by the student unless there are extenuating circumstances explained in writing to BEMC and accepted by BEMC's Board of Directors.

If the student changes schools the student must notify BEMC in writing and present the next semester's bill from the new school with the payment request form.

Payments from BEMC will be made within two weeks of receipt of the bill and payment request form.



# BEMC 2017 Scholarship Highway

## Essay Topic & Tips

### **OVERALL TOPIC:**

**“There are seven Cooperative Principles that all cooperatives abide by, which distinguish Brunswick Electric, an electric cooperative, from other business models.**

**Taken together, the first three principles mean that electric cooperatives are owned by their members, and that the co-op’s only purpose is to serve and answer to its members. This is different from other utilities that are owned by investors whose primary goal is to make a profit.**

**Tell us what is important about this difference and what it may mean to Brunswick Electric members.”**

The Seven Cooperative Principles are listed below for your reference.

#### 1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations; open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

#### 2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

#### 3. Members’ Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

#### 4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

#### 5. Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

#### 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

#### 7. Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

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**For good form:**

Essay should include an introduction; a body section and your conclusions or observations. Remember to cite your research sources.

Submit your essay in 1,000 to 1,500 words *no longer than three typed, double spaced pages* on the above topic and a completed application to your school guidance counselor by **Friday, March 17, 2017.**

Good luck with your research. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas!

If you have questions, please send them to [Kimberly.mayo@bemc.org](mailto:Kimberly.mayo@bemc.org).



BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
2017 BEMC Scholarship Highway Application for High School Seniors

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Initial

PO Box / Street Address City State Zip  
(permanent residence address)

Phone Number Email address Date of Birth

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BEMC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
High School Attending H.S. GPA Best Total SAT score  
unweighted  
weighted

2. Awards or Honors Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Activities in school: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Activities in community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Work: List employer, position, number of hours worked weekly, school year or summer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. School planning to attend \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 2 yr program      \_\_\_ 4 yr program      \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Costs first year:

Tuition:      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Board:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Books:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

8. Other scholarships or aid received: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Explain your need for scholarships or financial aid: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Special circumstances (*extended family obligations, medical expenses, other siblings in college, etc.*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENTS:**

\_\_\_ Essay (typed, double-spaced, 1,000 to 1,500 words)

\_\_\_ School Transcripts

\_\_\_ Up to two letters of recommendation from current teachers and one character reference letter  
(letters may **not** be from a family member.)

\_\_\_ Letter of acceptance from your school(s) of choice

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Guidance Counselor      Date: \_\_\_\_\_