

## Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship Program Accepting Student Applications for 2021

Valley Telephone Cooperative has initiated a college scholarship program and is now taking applications for 2021 scholarships.

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will award up to 20 scholarships of \$3,000 annually to the children of **Valley Telephone Cooperative members** pursuing undergraduate study at accredited colleges and universities. There will be a maximum of two scholarship awarded in each of Valley Telephone's 10 voting districts. Awards are renewable up to three additional years or until a bachelor's degree is earned, whichever occurs first, based on recipients maintaining residency requirements, satisfactory academic performance (2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale) and full-time enrollment status at an accredited 2 or 4-year college or university. The renewal award amount will be increased by \$250 each year if the student maintains a 3.0 grade point average or better in the prior year of college. Students may transfer to another accredited institution without penalty of losing their awards.

Applications should be sent to Scholarship America, the organization that administers the scholarship program, including selecting the scholarship recipients. The application deadline is March 18, 2021 for the 2021 program.

### Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship Program must:

- Be a dependent child (as defined in IRS publication 501 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) of a **current member of Valley Telephone Cooperative (VTCI)** who resides in the Valley Telephone service territory, and who has been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year as of the application deadline date
- Be a high school senior as of March 18, 2021. Have a minimum high school grade average of 80%
- Be high school seniors who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited 2 or 4 year U.S. College or University in Fall, 2020. Recipient must maintain a 2.0 or better GPA average for annual renewal

### Award Criteria

Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship awards are based on merit. Consideration is based on academic performance and future potential as determined by:

- High school grade average, rank in class and test scores (ACT, and/or SAT)
- Participation in academic-related activities to demonstrate critical thinking and applied knowledge (science fairs, math teams, debate tournaments, etc.)
- Statement of education and career goals
- An appraisal by a school official
- An essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following topic: "Cooperatives' Contributions to the Community and Economy of South Texas"

### Other Information

Awards may be used for tuition, books, supplies and room and board expenses (any amount used for room and board may be subject to tax).

All decisions made by Scholarship America are final, including those on selection of scholars and procedures.

### The Application Process

Applications must be submitted to Scholarship America postmarked no later than midnight, **March 18, 2021**. Scholarship America will not accept faxed or photocopied applications; **only E-Applications will be accepted**. Scholarship America will acknowledge receipt of applications via email.

Members with any questions please contact **Scholarship America at 1-800-537-4180**, or by **writing them at One Scholarship Way, St. Peter, Minnesota 56082**.