

## **Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship Program Accepting Student Applications for 2009**

Valley Telephone Cooperative has initiated a college scholarship program and is now taking applications for 2009 scholarships.

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will award up to 10 scholarships of \$2,000 annually to the children of Valley Telephone Cooperative members pursuing undergraduate study at accredited colleges and universities. There will be a maximum of one 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 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 16, 2009 for the 2009 program.

The following are the criteria for the 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 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 16, 2009. 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, 2009. 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 given to academic performance and future potential as determined by:

- High school grade average, rank in class and test scores (ACT, PSAT 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 of Scholarship America are final, including those on selection of scholars and procedures.

### **The Application Process**

Applications must be sent to Scholarship America postmarked no later than midnight, March 16, 2009. Scholarship America cannot accept faxed copies; however, photocopied applications are acceptable. Scholarship America, Inc. will acknowledge receipt of applications within 10 days.

Questions from members should be directed to Scholarship Management Services, Scholarship America at 1-800-537-4180, or by writing them at One Scholarship Way, P.O. Box 297, St. Peter, Minnesota 56082.