FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE



2027 *FRS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM*

Since 1994, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) has helped communities in rural areas that receive telephone and broadband service from members of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. We believe that the future of our rural communities is intrinsically linked to the future of our nation as a whole. FRS has awarded over $2 million in scholarships since its inception, empowering students from rural America to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

FRS annually awards scholarships to rural students for their first year of 2-year or 4-year college, or vocational school. This year, FRS is introducing a scholarship for nontraditional students. This includes individuals who have not recently graduated from high school but are now pursuing college or vocational school while balancing work, as well as returning students who have taken a break from their studies.

HOW TO APPLY

- Identify the NTCA Member in your community (Adams Telephone Co-Operative or Synetic Connect).
- Visit frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships to find a link to the application platform, Kaleidoscope. You must access the application via the Kaleidoscope link on the FRS website
- Apply by February 14, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST
- One application qualifies you for all available scholarships

FRS GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP
$2,500 awarded for the first year of 2-year or 4-year college or vocational school

COMMON GROUND SCHOLARSHIP
$9,000 awarded to two students from rural communities who are interested in studying environmental sustainability, social justice, telecommunications, or economic development

EVERETT KNEECE SCHOLARSHIP
$7,000 awarded in honor of the generous philanthropist, Everett Kneece, who had a passion for rural America

HERBERT AND ISABEL BITZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
$5,000 to one student who exhibits a strong dedication to rural America

JSI SCHOLARSHIP
$5,000 awarded to students interested in science, math, medicine, or engineering

SARAH TYREE GOOD NEIGHBOR SCHOLARSHIP
$5,000 awarded to students who demonstrate what it means to be a "good neighbor" through humanitarian acts, inclusion, and kindness

NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
$2,500 for students who have not recently graduated from high school but who may be entering college or vocational school while working, or returning students

TIM OWENS–RON LAUNDER SCHOLARSHIP
$2,500 for students planning to study fine arts or music

DIANA JO DREYER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
$2,500 awarded thanks to INDATEL Services LLC to a woman who intends to study business

TMS SCHOLARSHIP
$1,500 awarded to students who are customers of Ardmore Telephone and/or West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative

ROGER COX SCHOLARSHIP
$1,000 awarded to students living in rural areas of North Carolina and South Carolina



ELIGIBILITY

Each applicant must:

- Be a United States Citizen
- Be sponsored by Adams Telephone Co-Operative or Synetic Connect, a member of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association
- Express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation

APPLICATION

To complete the online application, you will need the following items:

- A 500–800 word essay about your intended area of study and how it could benefit your rural community.
- Proofread your essay because it is the most important part of the application
- Email addresses for two people who can provide a recommendation letter. Only one of those people may be an educator or counselor
- High school transcrip with at least 7 semesters. It does not need to be an official copy
- Select Mid Century Telephone Cooperative or Synetic Connect as the NTCA Member Company

- **All applications will be reviewed, and awardees selected by a qualified selection committee. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, or disability**
- **Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) to answer any questions on this application is not permitted. Plagiarism is also not permitted. Each application will be checked for A.I. and plagiarism, and if either is found, the application will be immediately removed from consideration**
- **Scholarships are a one-time award**
- **Awards will be paid to your school upon proof of registration at a 2-year, 4-year, or vocational college/university. Awards will be issued by August 2026**
- **All awards will be paid directly to the educational institution the student will attend**
- **Awardees will forfeit their scholarship if mandatory paperwork is not received by FRS within 60 days of notification that the have been selected**
- **Recipients will be contacted directly and names will be posted to www.FRS.org/scholarships**