



2026 Oakdale Electric Cooperative Lineworker Scholarship Application

Oakdale Electric Cooperative (OEC) recognizes that the electric utility industry is facing a large shortage of utility workers in coming years. Today's aging workforce includes an estimated 43,000 apprentice and journeyman lineworkers, half of whom will reach retirement age in the next five to ten years. To address the forecasted shortage of lineworkers and to encourage students to consider a career as a lineworker, OEC has established a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship has been established to assist high school senior students pursuing a post-secondary education in an electric utility lineworker program.

The electric utility lineworker is the “backbone” of the utility system. The profession represents the *physical* labor required to operate and maintain the electric grid.

In addition to being physically demanding, the lineworker's job can be dangerous. They also respond during the worst weather or disasters, which often cause extensive damage to the electrical lines. However, according to OSHA data, the injury rate within this occupation is on par with other professions. This is a tribute to the high degree of professionalism and concern for safety and safety equipment that are integral to the profession.

The lineworker's job has a strong public service aspect, and may be likened to that of a “first responder.” Indeed, in the event of natural disasters such as hurricanes or ice storms, lineworkers are critical in restoring the electric system - and hence community - to normalcy (Source: U.S. Department of Energy, “Workforce Trends in the Electric Utility Industry, 2006” pg. 14). http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/Workforce_Trends_Report_090706_FINAL.pdf

The fund is administered by a scholarship committee at Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

The scholarship committee will evaluate all applications. The selection will be based upon the application, financial need, and the essay questions. Notification of the award will be made by a member of the OEC scholarship committee or designee.

Payments will be made through the financial aid office of the recipient's college or university, and will be paid after the student provides proof of enrollment in an electrical lineworker program.

Eligibility:

1. Any high school senior applicant enrolling in a lineworker program. Preference will be given to OEC members and residents of Monroe, Juneau, Jackson, Sauk and Wood counties.
2. Student must have a 2.5 grade point average at the time of application, or a cumulative 2.5 High School GPA.
3. No student shall be excluded for race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
4. Applicant must be enrolling in a program leading to certificate to work in the electrical lineworker field.
5. Applications must be received by **May 1st, 2026**.

Applications should be completed and mailed or emailed **ALONG WITH ESSAY QUESTIONS** and **AT LEAST ONE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** by **May 1st, 2026** to: Jackie McGlin, Oakdale Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649
Email: jmcglin@oakdalerec.coop

Applications submitted without an essay will not be considered.

ESSAY QUESTIONS – On a separate sheet of paper please answer both questions. Please type your response and limit each question and answer to half a page.

1. What are your reasons for pursuing a career as an electric utility lineworker?
2. Who, if anyone, has inspired you to pursue such a career? Please elaborate further.
3. Explain the role that rural electric cooperatives play in your community.

Resources:

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), "BLS Handbook of Methods – Chapter 13: Economic Growth and Employment Projections." (Updated December 2005). Available at <http://www.bls.gov/emp/empmth01.htm>

U.S. Department of Energy "Workforce Trends in the Electric Utility Industry," 2006. Available at [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/Workforce Trends_Report_090706_FINAL.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/oeprod/DocumentsandMedia/Workforce_Trends_Report_090706_FINAL.pdf)
www.energy.gov Official site of the United States Department of Energy.

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Return with your Essay Questions to:
Oakdale Electric Cooperative
Attn: Jackie McGlin
PO Box 40
Oakdale, WI 54660

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____ Date of Birth _____ OEC Account # _____

2. FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name _____ Occupation _____

Mother's Name _____ Occupation _____

High School _____

Number in family attending college next year _____

3. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Rank _____ Cumulative GPA _____

4. COLLEGE you plan to attend: _____

5. WORK EXPERIENCE

List any jobs (including summer employment) you have held during the past three years. *Specific Nature of Work, Employer, Dates of Employment, Number of Hours per Week*

6. REFERENCES

List three (3) personal references and their phone numbers. At least one should be outside the school.

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Signature _____

Date _____