

2026 OAKDALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ESSAY CONTEST RULES
SCHOLARSHIP-AT-LARGE and NON-TRADITIONAL

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is not enrolled in one of the twelve participating public high schools in our service area (At-Large) or someone returning to university or technical college after spending time in the work place or raising a family (Non-Traditional). To be eligible, the applicant must be a member or the son or daughter (or under the legal guardianship) of an active member of the Oakdale Electric Cooperative in good standing.

Applicants do not have to attend Youth Congress, but are required to write an essay.

The scholarship will be for the first year of post-secondary education, providing that is the academic year following high school graduation. In order to receive the scholarship, the student must be entering a post-high school educational facility and proof of enrollment will be required. The disbursement of this scholarship will be awarded after all qualifications are met and verification of enrollment.

CONTEST RULES

1. The subject of the essay is "The Value of Cooperation." Students will choose just one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and elaborate on how cooperatives put the particular principle of their choosing in action.
2. Students are encouraged to use personal experiences to demonstrate their understanding of the value of cooperation in their lives.
3. Knowledge of the subject, originality, grammar, spelling and neatness will be factors used in judging essays.
4. A panel of judges will judge essays. Only essays received by the due date will be judged.
5. Essays must be a minimum of 600 words and not more than 1,200 words (approximately 2 to 4 typewritten pages).
6. Essays must be typed or computer generated, double-spaced, and on white letter-sized paper. (Essays will need to be copied for distribution to the judges – please be sure the essay will copy clearly.)
7. DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ESSAY.

Mail essays to: Oakdale Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649

ESSAYS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2026.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY JUNE 2026.