RONALD SIMMONS' GOOD TROUBLE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Zion Lutheran Church – 925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL 61104 – 815-964-4609
http://www.zionrockford.com

Scholarship Application

SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSE

The Ronald Simmons' Good Trouble Education Scholarship was established in 2024. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to Winnebago County high school graduates seeking to pursue higher education through accredited undergraduate, community college, trade, or vocational schools.

DEADLINE for scholarship applications is Feb. 15, 2026. *(Incomplete or late applications will not be considered)*

1. If any question does not apply to you in this application, please put 'N/A' in the space.
2. Type or print legibly. Illegible or incomplete applications will need to be resubmitted before the application deadline.
3. You will be notified by phone or email regarding the status of your application.
4. If you have any questions about the application, contact zionrockford@gmail.com or call the church office at the number above. Include **"Ronald Simmons' Good Trouble Education Scholarship"** in the email's subject line.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE is based on academic performance, leadership potential, participation in community volunteerism, and financial need.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Areas reviewed by the Scholarship Fund Committee include but are not limited to the following: *Academic Accomplishments, Community Service, References, Personal Essay, and In-person Interview.* All *scholarship funds are paid directly to the school or involved organizations (ex. housing facilities, bookstores, transportation agencies.)*

CRITERIA:

- Applicants must have residence in Winnebago County and be a permanent resident of the United States
- Applicants must be completing or have completed high school with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Applicants must be accepted as a student at an accredited *college, university, vocational, or trade school* program for the upcoming academic semester
- Applicants must demonstrate financial need by providing documentation that their household income does not exceed $65000 and/or applicant qualifies for Pell Grant assistance
- Applicants must submit a Scholarship Application postmarked by_____
- Applicants must complete a 150-250 word essay

We are vested in your unique thoughts and content so AI generated responses are not accepted and will disqualify you from the application process. Reviewers will utilize AI checkers as needed.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE:

- Completed application form
- Submit high school/college transcript
- Two letters of recommendation
- A 150-250 word essay
- A letter of acceptance from an accredited college, university, vocational and/or technical school

Please mail OR submit application to:
Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue

Rockford, IL 61104

The application must be completed by the applicant.

Please **type or print** your answers below. A separate sheet may be used if needed. Include your name on any additional sheets. If the application is illegible, it will be returned to you.		
1	Last Name: _____	First Name: _____
2	Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	
3	Daytime Telephone Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Personal or Home Email address: _____	
4	Current High School:_____	Anticipated High School Graduation date:_____
5	I will be attending the following school: _____ Start Date: _____ School Address/City/State/Zip: _____	
6	How many credit hours do you anticipate enrolling in for the Fall term? _____ Are you a first-generation college student? ___Yes ___No	
7	Current Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ *(On a 4.0 scale)* Class Rank: _____ Attach proof of GPA *(your most recent high school or college transcript required)*	
8	Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply): ____African American or Black ____Asian ____Hispanic or Latino ____American Indian or Alaska Native ____Middle Eastern or North African ____Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ____White ____Other ____Prefer not to say	
9	Name & address of parent(s) or legal guardian(s): Use the reverse side of the application if you need more space. Name (s) _____ Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Home or cell phone of parent(s) or legal guardian(s): _____	
10	What specialty/major do you plan to pursue as you continue your education?	

	Have you completed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)? ___Yes ___ No If 'No', do you need assistance? ___Yes ___ No		
11	List of the other financial assistance you will receive:		
	A.	Personal: (currently working or work study income during school)	Amount: $
	B.	Other Scholarship(s):	Amount: $
	C.	Grants:	Amount: $
	C.	Student Loan(s):	Amount: $
	D.	Other Financial Resources: (to include parent/guardian contribution)	Amount: $

Please list the following information on a separate sheet if needed.

12	**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Please list school/community extracurricular activities in which you have participated. Note leadership roles and dates.
13	**REFERENCES/RECOMMENDATIONS:** Please submit two sealed letters of recommendation from employers, teachers, family friends, clergy, or community leaders. **Do not submit recommendations from family members.**
14	**ORGANIZATIONS:** Please list community organizations such as service, volunteer, and religious organizations in which you are now active or have previously been active. Note leadership roles and dates.
15	**RECOGNITIONS**: Please list important awards and recognitions received. Note organizations presenting honor and date.
16	**GOALS:** What are the short- and long-term goals for your life?
17	**ESSAY:** In 150 - 250 words respond to one of the following prompt questions: 1. **Tell us about a time you failed and what you learned from it.** 2. **Tell us about yourself. What is your story?** 3. **Describe a moment that shifted your way of thinking.**

18	A. The following criteria must be met for the application to qualify for review by the Scholarship Fund Committee. B. Your application will be returned to you if required application materials are not attached to the application. (No exceptions.) C. Circle “YES” or “NO” to be sure you have completed and attached each item as required.		
19	YES	NO	Application completed. Included your name on any additional sheets.
	YES	NO	Two recommendation letters. Your references should be in separate sealed envelopes.
	YES	NO	Proof of college acceptance or current student enrollment. A letter of college enrollment or program enrollment is required for receipt of funds.
	YES	NO	Most recent high school or college transcript
	YES	NO	150-250 Word Essay
	YES	NO	Agree to attend an interview if selected as a finalist

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information and application materials provided by me to the Ronald Simmons’ Good Trouble Education Scholarship at Zion Lutheran Church are true, correct and without forgery. I consent to my picture being taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote this scholarship program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the institution of my choice before scholarship funds can be awarded.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____

Date:_____

Signature of parent/guardian (if under 18 years of age): _____

Date:_____

----------OFFICE USE----------

Name of Scholarship Recepient: _____

Date Received in the Office:_____

Who Received in the Office:_____

Scholarship Fund Meeting Date?_____

Scholarship Awarded?_____

Name of School?_____

Check Mailed?_____