

Linda A. Bowden Scholarship

Mount Hope Baptist Church

6823 Harrison Road
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22407
(540) 786-4274 (phone) (540) 785-8464 (fax)
www.mthopeva.org

Rev. Dr. Raymond A. Bell, Jr.
Senior Pastor

June 24, 2023

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of Mount Hope Baptist Church (Mt. Hope), we are pleased to announce the Linda A. Bowden Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year. The scholarship is provided for high school seniors and young adult students continuing their post-secondary education (undergraduate degree or trade school). The Linda A. Bowden Scholarship provides our young adult disciples of Mt. Hope financial assistance, as they further their education at a university, college, or an accredited trade school on a full-time basis.

It's important for the applicant to know that the following criteria are being emphasized this year and will continue to be emphasized in future years. Those criteria are continued consistent church attendance and continued service to the church or community.

If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, please review the entire application and follow the instructions enclosed. A completed application must be submitted or postmarked by the **application deadline date of July 30, 2023**. The completed application can be submitted using one of the following methods: emailed to scholarship@mthopeva.org, dropped off at Mt. Hope's church office during business hours or mailed to Mt. Hope at the address listed above. ***Submitting the application early is encouraged as applications received after the deadline date of July 30, 2023 will NOT be considered.***

The topics for this year's essay are *(please select one)*:

- (1) How has Covid affected your educational goals and your spiritual faith walk?
- (2) How has your Christian faith influenced your educational goals and life plans?
- (3) Name a person who has significantly influenced your life and explain how their influence has impacted your educational goals and life plans?

Essays must be 300 words for high school graduates and 500 words for college students. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 pitch font. Grammar, organization, and presentation of your essay will be closely evaluated by the scholarship committee members.

We congratulate and salute you on your successes thus far, and we extend best wishes to you as you continue your education. Should you have any questions, please send an email to the Scholarship committee at scholarship@mthopeva.org and a member of the Scholarship committee will respond.

The Mt. Hope Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Guidelines

Purpose: The Linda A. Bowden Scholarship was established to assist young adult disciples of Mt. Hope in furthering their post-secondary education by providing financial assistance via scholarships.

Focused Criteria: The Scholarship committee will be focusing on the applicant's continued consistent church attendance and continued service to the church or community.

Additional Criteria (*applicant must*):

1. Be a disciple and regular attendee of Mt. Hope (*six months minimum prior to application's deadline*).
2. Have participated in at least one ministry at Mt. Hope. For high school graduates, there needs to be at least one year of documented participation in ministry by the ministry lead.
3. Also, at least one parent or legal guardian needs to be a disciple of Mt. Hope and be in good standing (regular attendance, record of giving, and participation in one or more ministries). ***Unfortunately, regular attendees who are NOT disciples are ineligible.***
4. Be enrolled or accepted to a college, university or an accredited trade school on a full time basis (12 credits minimum) and be working towards an associate degree, undergraduate degree or a certificate of completion from a trade school. Proof of enrollment is required before receiving a scholarship.
5. Submit a written essay. Topic options and word counts are listed on the cover page.
6. Have a 2.0 or higher GPA (*for college students*).
7. Submit two ***new*** letters of reference from any of the following: teacher, counselor, principal, professor, advisor, or a community leader verifying your involvement. One letter must be from a church ministry here or a church ministry you are participating in within your school area. Community based organization recommendations are acceptable (*however letters from family members will NOT be accepted*). Letters should be on organization letterhead (if possible) and must be signed by the recommender. Letters should not be written by the staff of Mt. Hope unless they are also a ministry lead.
8. Submit a copy of their entire transcript (official or unofficial).
9. Include a current photograph of the applicant in the application package so the Scholarship committee can put a face to the applicant's name (*for high school graduates*).
10. Attend a required virtual or in person meeting after the application is submitted. This will allow the Scholarship Committee members to get to know the applicants a little better (*for high school graduates*).
11. ***Must complete a new application each of the next three years after receiving the scholarship the first year.***

Other Items of Importance:

1. Deadline for submission of application: **July 30, 2023 (Applications will NOT be considered after application deadline)**
2. The Scholarship maximum eligibility is determined annually. This year's maximum is four years. Recipient must be a full-time student within one year of graduating high school to be eligible. Failure to comply will result in your ineligibility for future scholarships.
3. The Scholarship Committee will notify qualifying applicants in writing of the committee's decision. However, please note that Pastor Bell gives the final approval of each scholarship application.
4. An official presentation of the scholarship will tentatively be held Sunday, August 20, 2023 (third Sunday) at which time checks will be given to the approved applicants.

Scholarship Application

(Please complete in blue or black ink)

Application Deadline (with all attachments) is: July 30, 2023

Application Submission Date: _____ Date Applicant Joined Mt. Hope: _____

Complete Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____

Current Telephone #: (____) _____ Current Email: _____

Name of College/University/Trade School: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Is your College/University/Trade School on a semester system: yes _____ no _____

If no, what system _____

Classification Status (as of Aug 2023): Freshman _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior _____

Major: _____ Minor (if applicable): _____ GPA _____

Goal(s) upon graduation: _____

Job(s) desire: _____

Name of Church you attend while in college (if other than Mt. Hope):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

List Church Ministry(s) or Service Organizations that you are actively involved in (within the past 12 months):

List any honors, awards, or associations you desire the committee to know of:

Parent/Legal Guardian Information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Mailing Address (if different than applicant): _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Is at least one Parent/Legal Guardian a disciple of Mt. Hope: yes ___ no ___ Date joined: _____

I affirm that the information contained above is true and I am a disciple of Mt. Hope. Should I decline enrollment, decide not to return to school or fail to maintain a full-time student status, I will return the scholarship in full within 30 days of any change.

Checklist of Required items:

Application _____ Essay _____ (2) Letters of Reference _____

Proof of Enrollment/Acceptance: _____ Transcript _____ Photograph of Applicant _____

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature (*High School Graduates Only!*)

Date