

Linda A. Bowden Scholarship

Mount Hope Baptist Church

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

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

May 2, 2024

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of Mount Hope Baptist Church (Mt. Hope), we are pleased to announce the Linda A. Bowden Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. The scholarship is available for high school seniors and current college 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 is important for the applicant to know the following criteria are being emphasized again this year and will continue to be emphasized in the future. Those criteria are: 1) continued, consistent church attendance (in-person and/or virtual) and 2) continued service to the church or the 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 Saturday, June 1, 2024**. 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 Saturday, June 1, 2024 will NOT be considered.***

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

- (1) What experience(s) have happened this last year that allowed you to lean on your faith?
- (2) 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 success 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 1) the applicant's continued, consistent church attendance (in-person and/or virtual) and 2) continued service to the church or the 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. At least one parent or legal guardian needs to be a disciple of Mt. Hope and be in good standing (regular attendance and a record of giving). ***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 and again before the 2nd half of the scholarship is disbursed.
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 (*for high school graduates only*).
10. Attend a virtual or in person meeting after the application is submitted; required (*for high school graduates only*).
11. ***Must complete a new application each year after receiving the scholarship the first year and not to exceed three additional years.***

Other Items of Importance:

1. Deadline for submission of application: **Saturday, June 1, 2024 (Applications will NOT be considered after the 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. Please note that the final approval authority is Pastor Bell.
4. An official presentation of the scholarship will tentatively be held Sunday, June 16, 2024 (third Sunday) at which time checks for the 1st half of the scholarship amount will be given to the approved applicants. The 2nd half of the scholarship amount will be given to the approved applicants Sunday, December 15, 2024 (*tentatively*).

Scholarship Application

(Please complete in blue or black ink)

Application Deadline (with all attachments) is: Saturday, June 1, 2024

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 2024): 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):

City: _____ State: _____

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