

Application – Smith Scholarship 2021

Applicant Name and Address:

NOTE: Use mailing address that you can securely receive mail. You may want to use an alternative mailing address of a friend or teacher depending on your circumstances.

Application:

Due 1/12/2022 by 5:00 p.m. CST

Fields with (*) are require.

Question Group:

Student Name: _____

High School Information:

Name of High School*

Please enter the full name of the school. _____

Graduation Date: (MM/DD/YYYY)*: _____

County High School is in* **NOTE: if you attend a “physical” school, it must be located in Alabama:** _____

High School Address*

Please list the Street Address, City, State and Zip Code.

High School Counselor’s Name* _____

High School Counselor’s Email* **NOTE: Many schools use software or filters that will block or send emails to spam. Make sure your counselor knows you have applied for the Smith Scholarship.** _____

High School Counselor’s Phone Number* _____

Other High School Staff* If another high school staff member has assisted you, provide their name, email and phone number. **NOTE: If personal emails or personal phone numbers are available, ask the Staff member if you can add these as well.** _____

Disciplinary Violation* **NOTE: SSF programs require transparency and honesty. SSF understands students are not perfect and circumstances exist that create problems. It is paramount that the applicant explains the incident and acknowledges their mistake and demonstrates accountability.**

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution you have attended from the 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct that resulted in a disciplinary action? These actions could include, but are not limited to probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from the institute. (DO NOT include Tardy, Detention Infractions.)

(Answering “Yes” to this question is not an automatic disqualification.)

Yes

No

If Yes

If “Yes” please truthfully explain in detail: _____

Misdemeanor, Felony, or Other Crime*

Have you ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime even if the judgment has been expunged, sealed, annulled, pardoned, destroyed, erased, impounded, or otherwise ordered by a court to be kept confidential?

(Answering “Yes” to this question is not an automatic disqualification. We understand students made mistakes and rules can be arbitrarily enforced.)

If Yes

If “Yes” please truthfully explain in detail: _____

Living Situation NOTE: Some applicants have complicated home lives that do not fit well into a check the box answer. Explain to the best of your ability your personal situation.

Choices:

Homeless NOTE: If you do not have a regular residence or move from friends or relatives for shelter, you need to advise your counselor and register with the County Liaison for “unaccompanied” or “at risk homeless” classification. This will make preparation of your FAFSA easier and possibly qualify you for additional financial aid. (See Commonly Asked Questions.)

At Risk of being Homeless NOTE: If you are living with someone who has no legal obligation to care for you (i.e., friend, extended family member, teacher), you are “at risk” for homelessness. Please advise your counselor and register with the County Liaison for “unaccompanied” or “at risk homeless” classification. (See Commonly Asked Questions). This will allow you to file FAFSA as an independent status expediting the process and possibly qualifying you for additional financial aid.

Living with a different guardian NOTE: If you have been formally appointed a guardian or a close family member has served as your guardian for several years and a formal or informal agreement exists in which that person handles your affairs or supplies support.

Foster Care/Group Home NOTE: If you have been formally placed in foster care or reside in a group home, please use this classification as additional Educational Benefits may be available.

Living with both parents

Living with one parent

Parent/Sibling Information:

Mother’s Name (First, Last) * _____

Mother’s Date of Birth* _____

Mother’s Street Address (Include City, State and Zip) * _____

Mother’s Employer* _____

Mother’s Occupation* NOTE: This helps SSF understand both financial and stability resources of the applicant. _____

Mother’s Level of Education* NOTE: Parents’ education level is often a factor in your educational experience and personal expectations of college. _____

If Other Please Specify NOTE: If you do not have information regarding your Mother/Father, explain the circumstances. “Unknown” answers require additional facts. If you parent is deceased, abandoned parental duties, is incarcerated, suffers from mental illness or addictions, let us know. Many applicants are very private about family dynamics. SSF’s ability fully review your application depends in part on understanding each applicant’s personal situation and how it has and will continue to impact your education. _____

Father’s Name (First, Last) * _____

Father’s Date of Birth* _____

Father’s Street Address (Include City, State and Zip) * _____

Father’s Employer* _____

Father’s Occupation* _____

Father’s Level of Education* _____

If Other, Please Specify _____

How many siblings do you have? * **NOTE: The number of siblings, cousins or school age household members illustrates responsibility, obligation of the applicant, time and financial restraint.**

School Attendance*

- Please give names and ages of your brothers and sisters, or any other individual attending school in your household.
- If they are enrolled in grades K-12 (or the international equivalent), list their grade level.
- If they have attended or are currently attending college, give the names of the undergraduate institution, degree earned, and approximate dates of attendance.
- Please list the annual cost of persons in your housing attending school of any kind.

Stepparents **NOTE: Stepparents includes current stepparents who are either married to a parent or residing with a parent in a long-term relationship whether a legal marriage exist or not.**

Do you have a stepparent? *

Yes

No

How many years has your stepparent been married to your parent? * _____

Does that stepparent help support you? * _____

Certificate of Need

Number of people in your household, including applicant* **NOTE: Many applicants live with extended family members by choice or necessity. This information assists in clarifying family dynamics, financial and family obligations to help those residing in the household.**

Household Information*

Please list the name, ages, and occupations of those individuals in your household (specify if a student or disabled). One person per line. (Example: Jane Parent – 44 – Waitress – Graduate Studies).

Is anyone in your household disabled, handicapped, or has special needs?

Yes

No

If yes, someone is disabled, handled, or has special needs, please explain.

Does anyone in your family suffer from serious health problems that create extensive medical bills. **NOTE: Chronic health issues and sudden health crisis increase financial strain and stress on the family unit. The effect these situations have on the applicant is important to aid reviewers in understanding difficult situations.**

Does the student, parent, or guardian file an Alabama or Federal Income Tax Return? * **NOTE: These questions provide information as to income and resources available. SSF considers financial need as a factor in review of applications.**

- Yes
- No

Does anyone in your family receive child support or aid to dependent children?

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", Who? And the Amount/Month?

Does anyone receive alimony, spousal support or property settlement payments? *

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", Who? And the Amount/Month?

GPA and Testing Scores

GPA (100 scale)

A Minimum of "C" average is required* (75 average is required). **NOTE: College Vine contains instructions to make this conversion if your transcript does not contain grades on 100 scale).**

Transcript*

Please upload a copy of most recent transcript.

Have you taken the ACT or SAT test? (**NOTE: A completed ACT/SAT is required to qualify for the Smith Scholarship. Test Scores are not "graded" but used to identify areas of study that may need remedial work due to limited academic opportunities. Take the ACT multiple times to obtain the best score possible to qualify for additional scholarships. Taking the test multiple times is considered a large plus in evaluation of your application. It shows commitment and determination. Ask your counselor or Upward Bound Program Director for waivers to eliminate test fees.**

- Yes
- No

ACT/SAT Taken

What is your ACT or SAT Score? * _____

** Scores are used to ascertain academic areas that may require Remedial Assistance due to limitations on your educational opportunities.

Applicants ARE NOT graded on Test Scores.

Please upload your ACT or SAT Score. *

College Information

Anticipated Major*

If you do not have a strong choice, list "Undeclared".

Please list the school(s) you wish to attend*

1. Please list at least three (3) schools you wish to attend and the scholarship deadline for the school(s). You must apply to these schools before December 1st to receive many of the scholarships offered by college or universities.
Example: ABC University – Deadline November 5th.

University Assignment

The Board of Trustees will select appropriate schools for student to attend based upon student's choice, major, location, cost, family situation and SSF Teams.

Selected Students are not guaranteed scholarships to their preferred schools. **NOTE: SSF places a large emphasis on the applicant's school choices if the rationale provided for attendance at the institution is relevant to legitimate academic endeavors. The BOT will consider multiple factors when making school assignment(s). Other factors include academic readiness of the student to not just perform but perform well at the school. Available scholarships at the institution, overall cost, programs and degrees that match the applicant's area of study along with internship/co-op opportunities. Factors such as proximity to family are important. If space away is needed to protect students or facilitate growth in independency and maturity. SSF must also consider the number of SSF scholars at each school and organization of college teams to provide support and SSF program success.**

College Application Status? *

- Incomplete
- Submitted
- Approved
- Denied

Why do you prefer this institution(s)? *

NOTE: Many students are influenced by non-academic factors in selecting a school. Family often pushes for attendance at a football favorite without any consideration of the size, cost, and opportunities offered by the school. Students have turned down scholarships when assigned other schools choosing instead to burden themselves with student debt, working too many hours only to realize later that the emphasis should have been placed on academic and professional opportunities as well as cost. SSF's goal is for its scholars to graduate with top grades, extensive student involvement with a professional job in their major or acceptance into graduate or professional school.

In selecting your choice of schools, do your research. How large is the school compared to your high school? How large are the classes – will you be a number not a name? What percentage of classes are taught by Professors versus T.A.'s (graduate students)? If you are interested in a specific major, does the school offer courses specialized in that area? For example, what type of engineering versus general engineering degree. What is availability at career counseling, job placement services so you can graduate with a job – how many of the school's students have a job in their degree upon graduation? Within 6 months within 1 year?

If you are pursuing a career that requires graduate degrees or professional studies, review the availability of such at the institution and admission rate into graduate/professional schools.

Community or Civic Volunteer Service? * NOTE: Focus your answer on quality, not quantity. Work that is meaningful to you that fulfills a personal passion wins every time over a listing of minimum involvement obviously listed to increase numbers. Be truthful, if you have both positive and negative experiences and you learned from those, that is important as it shows maturity. Discuss the specific aspects of the work you performed that resonated with you and why you think it made an impact on you personally. Volunteering does make most people feel good

but what part of it inspired you, made you realize priorities, or made you sick to your stomach literally or emotionally?

Have you performed Community of Civic Volunteer Service?

- Yes
- Not

How do you help out at home? * NOTE: Many families depend on each other to keep the family's finances and day-to-day activities running smoothly. Do you work, shop for groceries, prepare meals, look after siblings, drive grandparents to the doctor or clean their house? How much time do you spend on these items? Who depends on you and how do you fill that need?

Support of Family

Are you employed? *

- Yes
- No

Work

How many hours do you work a week? * _____

Where do you work? * _____

Work Contact Name* _____

Work Contact Phone Number * _____

How is your money you earn used? * _____

Please list some examples in detail.

Examples:

- Personal Clothing
- Cell Phone Bill
- Automobile Maintenance
- Insurance
- School Expenses/Fees

How do you assist your family financially? * _____

- Pay utilities
- Help with groceries
- Pay for gas

Awards and Activities/Leadership NOTE: Do you have perfect attendance? Do you make the honor role? Were you the most improved player? If the award relates to school or school activities, list it here.

Awards

Please list each award and include the year of the award (one per line).

Clubs, School Organizations, School Related Activities? NOTE: What clubs, organizations, sports, band, pep squad do you participate? Why is this activity important to you? Tell us how you battled for 1st chair, section leader, worked with a team of misfits to create a newspaper, yearbook organize a talent show. Focus on why the activity or organization means something to you. Why did you stay up all night painting those banners just to have the football team tear through them?

Please list each activity and include the year of the activity (one per line). Explain the purpose of the organization, mission and your participation including leadership roles.

Non-School Activities (Religious/Church/Political). NOTE: Do you teach Sunday School? Coach little league or kid soccer? Provide stories of success, ultimate failures of kids running bases backwards. Have you ever run for office, worked on a candidate's campaign (big or small), advocated for change, marched in a protest, gathered relief supplies?

Please list each activity and include year and position held (one per line). Explain the purpose of the organization mission and your participation including leadership roles.

Essay Questions

Please note minimum response required per essay is 300 words.

What is your greatest strength or talent? * NOTE: Everyone has a talent, ask a friend if you cannot see it. Are you an empathic listener always willing to be the shoulder for others, do you take charge when no one else knows where to start? Are you a natural leader, team player, dependable? Do you follow directions well? These are all talents that are just as important as being the star player of the week.

Provide examples, describe events. (It is acceptable and encouraged to bring on your talents).

What is your greatest weakness or trait that impacts your ability to succeed? * NOTE: Most applicants face obstacles. They are shy, self-conscious, lack self-confidence, always puts others first, procrastinate, lack self-motivation, put themselves down, are always late, perpetually forget things, fear of speaking in public or speaking up for themselves. Describe this weakness and how it has been a hinderance. Did you throw up when you gave a speech, were you too shy to answer questions asked by the teacher? Recognizing the trait and its impact is the initial step to overcoming it or learning to minimize its effect. Besides you have to answer this question to be able to finish the next one.

What have you done about these weaknesses? * NOTE: Ok after you expose your trait or weakness, describe how you handled it. Did you talk to a counselor or a friend, did you make a calendar to remember, record yourself making speeches or take a speech and public speaking class? Is this something you will have to learn to deal with the rest of your life? Have you procrastinated addressing the issue and keep putting it off? Okay, if you are still battling the nemeses, what are your plans? Have you researched possible resolutions? Made an appointment with a counselor? Do you have someone who will keep you accountable to your plan? If you have not put a plan in place, do so now and include specific information and research because this is important. A short answer is going to be graded down so put real thought into it for your own self benefit. (Keep a copy of this for yourself for later use).

What are your future plans, goals or aspirations? *

Include Personal, Education Professional, and specific plans you have to obtain them. **NOTE: Big dreams are great, but also include a back-up plan for a secure future if you not selected as the next Voice winner. A planned timeline for your aspirations demonstrates that you have researched and know what education, training or certifications are necessary to secure your goals.**

It is important that organization, spelling, grammar as well as content be reviewed or proofread. (at least 500 word minimum, 1000 words preferred).

Personal Statement*

If you have prepared a personal statement essay as a part of your college application or common application, please attach.

If you do not have a personal statement, provide an essay of “your story.” Include your background, identity, family life or special interest. How has your past impacted who you are today?

- When sharing sensitive information that you prefer to maintain in confidence, please mark as **Confidential**. SSF takes precautionary measures to safeguard applicant’s information.

NOTE: This is most important part of the application. Make an outline before you begin writing so your story is organized and conveys the information and emotional journey that has made you who you are and impacted your future plans.

Additional or Supplemental Essay

If you would like to attach any additional essays or writing samples or artwork of your choosing, we encourage you to add it to your application. If you have other talents such as singing, provide us a link to your YouTube posting.

NOTE: This is your opportunity to be creative and share written work you are proud of as well as any artistic talent that you believe illustrates who you are as well as your personal interest. It is important that your application provides a complete picture of you as a person in all aspects, student, volunteer, athlete, grandchild, sibling, leader, artist, cook, worker, dancer or survivor.

Have you participated in college preparedness programs?

At school, online or other. Please explain.

Example:

- AP Courses (include test scores if applicable)
- Career Counseling
- Dual Enrollment (Include School, classes and GPA).

Certificate of Need

Have you applied for FAFSA?

- Yes
- No

NOTE: The FAFSA becomes available October 1, 2021, and there are different deadlines for different aid programs. For the 2021-22 year, you can apply beginning October 1st. However, there are state and federal student aid programs that have limited funds so be sure to apply as soon as you can.

You must apply to FAFSA in order to submit this application unless you are prohibited from applying.

No, I did not apply for FAFSA

Please explain why you did not or cannot apply for FAFSA*

*** If you cannot apply due to eligibility status, please indicate if you are a DACA Participant.***

If you CANNOT apply for FAFSA, please provide the following. *

- Annual Income of Household (Include Salary, Wages)
- Assets (Home, Investments, Cars, Etc.)

Information from your FAFSA documents

What is your Pell Grant Amount? * _____

Have you been approved for Work Study? * _____

- Yes
- No
- Waitlisted

What is your "EFC"? * _____

Estimated Family Contribution provided by FAFSA

Please upload SAR (Summary of Assets Report) your completed FAFSA*

If your EFC is over \$5,000, please include factors such as death, illness or loss of other financial impact on reported EFC.

Free Lunch – NOTE: If an applicant qualifies for this program, part of the income verification has been made for qualification of this scholarship.

- Free lunch
- Reduced lunch
- None of the above

General Recommendation #1* NOTE: Applicant should contact individuals listed for letters of recommendation. Make certain they will respond by the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Use people who really know you and will be an advocate. Read the questions that will be asked in the LOR section. If your recommender will not be able to accurately answer, you should select another person or talk with the person who has been nominated.

This is the letter that will be sent:

You have been nominated to provide a Letter of Recommendation on behalf of an applicant for the SSF Scholarship. Smith Scholars are selected based upon perseverance and ability to overcome hardships. Your responses to the following questions will assist the student in demonstrating these qualities.

Letters of Recommendations are the primary source of information about the student. Most applicants advance to “Finalist” based upon the information and insight contained in your letter.

Many students sell themselves short in their applications; therefore, we rely on your letter to provide information demonstrating the student’s character, achievements and personal triumphs.

Please attach a Letter or copy and paste into the field below containing the following information.

Letter of Recommendation *

1. Your Name
2. How long have you known the applicant?
3. How do you know the applicant?
4. Describe the student’s:
 - a. Academic success.
 - b. Academic struggles and effort to succeed academically.
 - c. Has the applicant overcome financial impediments by working to provide for personal expenses or family expenses?
 - d. Are you aware of any issues in the applicant’s home life that hinder or impede the student’s academic success?
 - e. Has the applicant overcome any disability, physical or mental health issues?
 - f. What character trait does the applicant possess that is holding the student back from reaching his/her full potential? (Low self-esteem or lack of self-confidence, trouble prioritizing, overcommits to obligations?)
 - g. Describe the applicant’s empathy for others.
 - h. Describe any talents, extracurricular activities or sports the applicant has participated in or examples of leadership skills.

General Recommendation #2* NOTE: Applicant should contact individuals listed for letters of recommendation. Make certain they will respond by the Application deadline. Use people who really know you and will be an advocate. Read the questions that will be asked in the LOR section. If your recommender will not be able to accurately answer, you should select another person or talk with the person who has been nominated.

Statement of Understanding

The Foundation reserves the right to require additional verification and follow-up request for documents will be made in the sole discretion of the Foundation as it determines is necessary to maintain quality of the Foundation’s activities. The Foundation and its Trustees will utilize the submitted information in or at its/their discretion as determined appropriate to aid in the evaluation of the application.

Additional Scholarships*

A requirement for this scholarship is for the student to APPLY for at least three (3) outside scholarships prior to December 1. College scholarships must be submitted to selected institutes by the school mandated deadline. Retain proof of submission regarding your 3 or more additional scholarships.

If you are a Finalist, proof of submission will be required. **If you have previously applied for scholarships, please list the name of the scholarship application you have submitted.**

If you have not applied for any other outside scholarships, please visit our website for links to other scholarships and apply before completing the 2021-22 Smith Scholarship.

How did you learn about this scholarship? *

Acknowledgment *

Applicants that proceed to the Semi-Finalist level will be required to participate in interviews and complete analysis review to advance to Finalist Level.

Yes

Scholarship Orientation*

I understand that attendance is mandatory at scholarship orientation(s).

Yes

Other Scholarship Providers*

I understand that the Smith Foundation works with other scholarship providers who may be furnished a copy (or portions if marked confidential) of my application. Questions or concerns, please contact the Smith Scholarship Office.

Yes

Agreement and Signature

Acknowledgement*

The undersigned hereby acknowledges the information provided on this application, including attachments, is true and correct to the best of their knowledge, and the information provided to the Smith Scholarship Foundation, to the officers and trustees of the Foundation, and to any other person authorized by the Foundation to review the information. Parents/guardian and I hereby release from liability any person submitting information to the Foundation for use in the selection of scholarship recipients. Furthermore, my name, application, photograph, and essays may be used by SSF for media purposes should applicant be awarded a scholarship. (If Essays contain extremely sensitive information, the applicant should note "Confidential").

I understand agree

Signature*

By entering your name, you are entering your legal signature that you agree to the above statement.

Date of Signature**

***Parent/Guardian signature if you are under 18. ***

Third party submissions*

DO NOT submit before you verify that your counselor and recommenders have submitted their part of the application. To check this, give them time to submit, and then check the application to determine if they have completed the Recommendation.

It is your responsibility to follow up with the recommenders who have not submitted.

My Recommendations have been submitted.