BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

509-786-2913
BentonREA.org
P.O. Box 5330, West Richland, WA 99353

Application for Trade/Technical Scholarship

2026-2027

Name:_____Date of Birth: _____

Address:_____

Phone:_____ Student Email: _____

High School: _____

Intended Institute of Higher Learning: _____

Transcript/Experience Sheet/Reference Letters: Please attach copies of your high school transcript, the Trade/Technical Experience Sheet and three reference letters (one reference letter must be from someone associated with the trade that you will pursue) and return by email to: **support@bentonrea.org.** Please identify **Scholarship Program** in the subject line.

I am a high school senior, my parents or legal guardians are members of the Benton Rural Electric Association with an active electric account, and my primary residence is within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties.

I have read and understand that my application, reference letters, experience sheet, and high school transcript are to be submitted to Benton Rural Electric Association **no later than January 7, 2027,** or I will not be considered as a candidate for this year's Trade/Technical scholarship program.

I understand that the Benton REA Trade/Technical Scholarship can only be used for a program that must be at a technical or trade institution or a certification program or Associate in Applied Science Program at a community college or university that is pre-approved by Benton REA.

I understand that if selected to receive a Benton REA Trade/Technical Scholarship, I must agree to:

1. Accept the initial award of the scholarship in person at the upcoming Benton REA Annual Meeting and help at the meeting or make other arrangements that are pre-approved by the Benton REA.

2. I understand that if I am awarded a Benton REA Trade/Technical Scholarship and, for some unforeseen reason, I am not able to continue with my education or training, I must notify the Benton REA Member Services Department immediately so that one of the alternates may receive the scholarship.

Signed: _____Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Parent or Guardian:_____

Benton REA Account #: _____

Address:_____

Phone #:_____

Email:_____

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Benton REA Trade/Technical Scholarship Program
Trade/Technical Experience Sheet

List all experience you have in trade or technical related skills, or other skills-based programs (10 maximum points):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

List awards, certificates, honors, and accomplishments through trade or technical based programs (5 maximum points):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

In 150 words or more, describe the trade or technical based training you plan to pursue and why you have chosen to pursue a career in that field. Attach additional sheet if necessary (35 maximum points):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Benton REA Trade/Technical Scholarship Program
2026-2027 School Year

Provisions for Trade/Technical Scholarship

I. Eligible Candidates

All children of Benton REA members, or members themselves, are eligible candidates; excluding any person serving on the Selection Committee, any Benton REA employee, or any Benton REA board member, or the children of any of these excluded individuals. Part-time Benton REA student employees are not included under the "Benton REA employee" exclusion.

II. Student Qualification Conditions

A. At the time of initial application, the candidate must be a graduating high school senior.

B. Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a technical or trade institution or a pre-approved certification program or Associate in Applied Science Program at a community college or university.

1. The candidate may be enrolled in any field of study at a trade or technical institution in which the curriculums offered by these institutions are specialized and lead to job-specific certification.
2. A candidate that attends a community college or university must maintain enrollment in a certification program or Associate in Applied Science Program in which the curriculum is specialized and leads to job-specific certification. All proposed certification programs or Associate in Applied Science Programs at community colleges and universities must be pre-approved by the Association Review Committee. Examples of eligible certification programs and Associate of Applied Science Programs include but are not limited to:

- Automotive
- Electrical Lineworker
- Paramedic
- Computer Aided Drafting
- Nursing-LPN
- Pharmacy Technician
- Welding

C. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or an Eligible Candidate, must be a member of the Benton REA with the member's primary/principal residence located within Benton, Yakima or Lewis counties.

D. Recipients agree to participate in the next Benton REA annual meeting. If the scholarship recipient is unable to attend the Benton REA annual meeting, they must make acceptable alternative arrangements with the Benton REA.

E. The recipient must have completed all requirements necessary to be fully matriculated in the beginning of the term.

III. Limitations

A. Scholarships will be awarded annually for recipients who will attend a community college or university for a curriculum that is at least two years in length. For all other curriculums and institutions, Benton REA will determine how the funds will be awarded on a case-by-case basis.

B. Scholarships will be paid directly to the recipient's college, university, technical, or trade institution upon Benton REA's receipt of tuition costs and appropriate evidence that the recipient has been accepted as a full-time student.

C. First priority use of Trade/Technical Scholarship funds must be to pay tuition. If money remains after tuition is paid, the candidate may purchase books and submit documented receipts to the Benton REA Review Committee to obtain reimbursement of such expense. Clothing,

transportation, appliances, telephones, and food do not qualify for payment.

D. Unused scholarship funds will be retained by Benton REA. Unused funds may result if a student is over financed, if a student no longer remains enrolled in the pre-approved curriculum, if the student no longer meets the requirements of the scholarship program, or if a recipient ceases to be a student. Scholarship funds that have been sent to an institution that are not used by a qualifying recipient shall be refunded to Benton REA, not to the student.

E. Scholarships are not assignable.

F. Recipients of a Trade/Technical scholarship must maintain an annual cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, witnessed by a certified transcript from the educational institution. For recipients enrolled in a certification program, or an Associate of Applied Science Program at a community college or a university that is pre-approved by Benton REA, the certified transcript will be used to verify that the student remains enrolled in the pre-approved program.

G. Access to the scholarship fund for a trade/technical scholarship is valid for a limited time period not to exceed four (4) years from the date of initial enrollment in a technical or trade institution or a pre-approved certification program or Associate in Applied Science Program at a community college or university, and the funds shall only be disbursed for a period not to exceed two (2) school years. The scholarship funds ($4,000) will be disbursed through equal installments based upon the duration of the selected curriculum.

H. Continuing access to scholarship funds is contingent upon the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) continuing their membership with Benton REA with their primary/principal residence located within Benton County, Lewis County, or Yakima County.

IV. Application Procedures

A. Applicants for trade/technical scholarships must complete an application form, submit three reference letters with one reference letter from someone associated with the trade that the applicant will pursue, a copy of the applicant's transcript, and a trade/technical experience sheet.

B. Only applications and all required material that have been received prior to the deadline will be considered.

V. Selection Criteria

A. General Selection Criteria will include the following considerations:
1. Meet all eligibility requirements.
2. Submission of reference letters as required.
3. Grade Point Average. A copy of applicant's transcript must be provided.
4. Submission of a completed Trade/Technical Experience Sheet.

B. The following point scale will be used by the Review Committee for determining the recipients of the scholarship funds:

Description	**Possible Points**
Reference Letters	40
Grade Point Average	10
Trade/Technical Experience Sheet	50
Total Possible Points	**100**