

Smith Scholarship Application 2023
Additional Instructions/Help Me! – Read Before Starting Application

Applicant Name and Address:

NOTE: Use a mailing address where 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 1/13/2024 by 5:00 p.m. CST

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 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 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” 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 situation. All information is confidential.

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 the “unaccompanied” or “at risk homeless” classification. This will make preparation of your FAFSA easier and possibly qualify you for additional financial aid.

At Risk of being Homeless NOTE: If you are living with someone who has no legal obligation to care for you (i.e., a friend, extended family member, or teacher), you are “at risk” for homelessness. Please advise your counselor and register with the County Liaison for the “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 the 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," "N/A," or "Not in My Life" will not be accepted without detailed facts. If your parent is deceased, abandoned parental duties, is incarcerated, or 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 situation and how it has and will continue to impact your education.

*The same instructions highlighted on Mother also apply to Father.

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, an obligation of the applicant, time, and financial restraint. List all members of the household whether or not they are an actual relative.

School Attendance*

- Please give the 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 people in your housing attending a school of any kind (daycare, kindergarten, high school fees, community college or college.)

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

Do you have a stepparent? *

___ Yes

___ No

How many years has your stepparent lived with and/or been married to your parent? * _____

Does that stepparent help support you financially or physically? Explain in detail when answering the direct questions about them on the application? * _____

___ Yes

___ No

Household Dynamics

The number of people in your household, including applicants* NOTE: Many applicants live with extended family members by choice or necessity. This information assists in clarifying family dynamics, and 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 the student is 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, provide the name of individual(s), relationship, type of disability, special needs, and who provides current financial and physical aid.

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. Include co-pays for medical and prescription drugs, who takes the person to the doctor, and who helps provide daily care.

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 must consider financial need as a factor in the review of applications.

- Yes
- No

Does anyone in your family receive child support or aid for 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 only)

A Minimum of a “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 a 100 scale).

Transcript*

Please upload a copy of the most recent transcript.

Have you taken the ACT or SAT? (NOTE: A completed ACT/SAT is required to qualify for the Smith Scholarship. Test Scores are not “graded” but are 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 the 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. *

Statement of Understanding

Scholarship Orientation MANDATORY

I UNDERSTAND THAT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY AT SCHOLARSHIP ORIENTATION (“BOOT CAMP”) ON JUNE 1, 2024.*

IF APPLICANT CANNOT COMMIT TO THIS DATE, DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATION. No Waivers will be permitted.

Yes

College Information

Mandatory Agreement.

If you have selected a university, and it is the only one you will attend, **STOP – DO NOT SUBMIT** this Application.

This scholarship does not permit students to make that selection. Multiple factors are considered in matching scholarship recipients to a school or schools. Your selection and academic rationale for your preference will be a factor in the process.

I understand: _____

University Assignment

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

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 schools.

You must apply to these schools before December 1st to receive many of the scholarships offered by colleges or universities.

1. Example: ABC University – Deadline November 5th.
2. Example: ABC University – Deadline November 5th.
3. Example: ABC University – Deadline November 5th.

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 Board of Trustees ("BOT") will consider multiple factors when making school assignment(s). Other factors include the academic readiness of the student to not just perform but perform well at 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 independence and maturity. SSF must also consider the number of SSF scholars at each school and the organization of college teams to provide support and SSF program success.

University Assignment

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

Anticipated Major

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

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. The 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 to 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 the availability of career counseling, and 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 the admission rate into graduate/professional schools.

Additional Scholarships*

A requirement for this scholarship is for the student to APPLY for at least three (3) outside scholarships before 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 2023-24 Smith Scholarship.

Community or Civic Volunteer Service? *

Have you performed Community or Civic Volunteer Service?

Yes

Not

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 the money you earn used? * _____

Please list some examples in detail.

Examples:

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

How do you assist your family financially? * _____

- Pay Utilities
- Help with groceries
- Pay for gas

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?

Many students care for family members or work to provide for their families. How do you help out at home? Include extended family assistance.

SSF limits students' work to 15 hours a week while school is in session. Unlimited hours on breaks.

You must acknowledge and agree to limit work to 15 hours weekly while class is in session.

Awards and Activities/Leadership NOTE: Have you received recognition for Academic, Leadership, Volunteer Work, or Sports?

Awards

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

Have you participated in school clubs, school organizations, or school related activities? NOTE: What clubs, organizations, sports, bands, and pep squads do you participate in? 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: Why is this important to you? Do you teach Sunday School? Coach little league or kid soccer? Provide stories of success, and ultimate failures of kids running bases backward. Have you ever run for office, worked on a candidate’s campaign (big or small), advocated for change, marched in a protest, or gathered relief supplies?

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

Essay Questions

Please note minimum response required per essay is 300 words.

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

2. What are your 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 backup plan for a secure future if you are 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*Provide an essay of “your story.” (The Good, The Bad, Happy or Sad). Explain your 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 it as

Confidential. SSF takes precautionary measures to safeguard the applicant’s information.

NOTE: This is the most important part of the application. 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 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 them 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 that you believe illustrates who you are as well as your interest. Your application must provide 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, TRIO, Upward Bound
- Dual Enrollment (Include School, classes, and GPA).

Certificate of Need

Have you applied for FAFSA?

Yes

No

NOTE: The FAFSA becomes available on October 1, 2023, and there are different deadlines for different aid programs. For the 2023-24 years, you can apply beginning October 1, 2023. However, there are state and federal student aid programs that have limited funds so be sure to apply as soon as you can.

No, I did not apply for FAFSA.

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

If you CAN NOT 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 a Work Study? *

Yes

No

Waitlisted

What is your Student Aid Index (“SAI”)(formerly the EFC Expected Estimated Family Contribution)? * _____

Please upload proof that your FAFSA is complete.

Did you file Taxes this year?

If Yes, attach a copy of Federal 1040 Tax Return of:

- Applicant
- Father
- Mother
- Stepparent
- Guardian

If your SAI is over \$5,000, please include factors such as death, illness, or loss of another financial impact on the reported SAI. Note. Those students advancing to the finalist Review Status will be required to obtain an unredacted copy of their ISIR from a school receiving Pell information. 1040 Federal Tax Returns will also be required for income verification.

If no tax return is filed, provide the following:

W-2 – Income

1099 – Reported Amount

1099R – Distribution Received

K-1

Amount of funds received from SSI or Disability or Retirement Plan.

I

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

Free lunch

Reduced lunch

None of the above

Letter of Recommendation #1* NOTE: Applicant should contact individuals listed for letters of recommendation. Make certain they will respond by the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Use people who 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 to the person applicant designates:

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

Letters of Recommendation 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 it 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 students:
 - 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 or 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, overcommitment 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.
 - i. Other. Add anything you believe is important for SSF to know about the applicant. Good-Bad or otherwise.

Letter of Recommendation #2* NOTE: Applicant should contact individuals listed for letters of recommendation. Make certain they will respond by the Application deadline. Use people who 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 requests for documents will be made at the sole discretion of the Foundation as it determines is necessary to maintain the quality of the Foundation's activities. The Foundation and its Trustees will utilize the submitted information at or at its/their discretion as determined appropriate to aid in the evaluation of the application.

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 an analysis review to advance to the Finalist Level. Income verification documents will also be required.

___ Yes

Agreement and Signature

Acknowledgment*

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/guardians 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 an applicant be awarded a scholarship. (If Essays contain extremely sensitive information, the applicant should note "Confidential").

I understand and 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 it.

My Recommendations have been submitted.