



Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Electric Utility Worker Scholarship Application

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) recognizes that the electric utility industry is facing a large shortage of utility workers in coming years. Today's aging workforce includes an estimated 43,000 apprentice and journeyman line workers, half of whom will reach retirement age in the next five to ten years. To address the forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility, CWEC has established a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship has been established to assist a student pursuing a post-secondary education in an electric utility worker program.

The electric utility worker is the “backbone” of the utility system. The profession represents the *physical* labor required to operate and maintain the electric grid.

In addition to being physically demanding, the utility worker's job can be dangerous. They also respond during the worst weather or disasters, which often cause extensive damage to the electrical lines. However, according to OSHA data, the injury rate within this occupation is on par with other professions. This is a tribute to the high degree of professionalism and concern for safety and safety equipment that are integral to the profession.

The utility worker's job has a strong public service aspect, and may be likened to that of a “first responder.” Indeed, in the event of natural disasters such as hurricanes or ice storms, utility workers are critical in restoring the electric system - and hence community - to normalcy (*Source: U.S. Department of Energy, “Workforce Trends in the Electric Utility Industry,” 2006., pg. 14).*

The fund is administered by a scholarship committee at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.

The scholarship committee will evaluate all applications. The selection will be based upon the application, the essay questions, and the ability of the student to maintain a 2.5 grade point average during their first term of college.

Notification of the award will be made by a member of the CWEC scholarship committee or designee.

Payments will be made through the financial aid office of the recipient's college or university. Fifty percent (50%) will be paid at the beginning of the school year and fifty percent (50%) following receipt of a letter and transcript from the student, to the committee, at the end of their first term.

Eligibility:

- 1) Any applicant enrolling in a utility worker program or any applicant who can prove they are on a waiting list for the next open enrollment period. Preference will be given to CWEC members.
- 2) Student must have, at the time of application, a 2.5 grade point average and maintain a 2.5 grade point average during their first term of college.
- 3) No student shall be excluded for race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
- 4) Applicant must be enrolling in a program leading to certificate to work in the electrical utility worker field.
- 5) Dependents of employees and directors are not eligible to participate in this scholarship program.
- 6) For questions, please email Brenda Mazemke at brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com or by phone at 715-677-2211.
- 7) Applications must be received by **May 4, 2018**.
- 8) **Applications should be completed and mailed or emailed ALONG WITH ESSAY QUESTIONS by May 4, 2018 to:**

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Attn: Electric Utility Worker Scholarship
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473
Email: brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com**

Applications submitted without an essay will not be considered.

ESSAY QUESTIONS - On a separate sheet of paper please answer the questions listed below. Please type your response and limit the answer to each question to half a page (300 words).

1. What are your reasons for pursuing a career as an electric utility worker?
2. Who, if anyone, has inspired you to pursue such a career?
3. Explain the role that rural electric cooperatives play in your community?
4. What is your community involvement?

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Electric Utility Worker Scholarship Application**

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Cell Phone Number _____ Alternate Number _____

2. FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name _____ Occupation _____

Mother's Name _____ Occupation _____

CWEC Member Account # _____

3. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School _____

Class Rank _____ Cumulative GPA _____

4. COLLEGE you plan to attend: _____

5. WORK EXPERIENCE List any jobs (including summer employment) you have held during the past three years. Specific Nature of Work; Employer Dates of Employment; Number of Hours per Week, etc. _____

6. REFERENCES List three (3) personal references and their phone numbers. At least one should be outside the school.

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return completed Application and Essay Questions to:
Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
Attn: Electric Utility Worker Scholarship Application
PO Box 100
Rosholt, WI 54473