



2026 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST INFORMATION

High school seniors are encouraged to enter the Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) Scholarship Essay Contest. The three top essays will each be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarships are paid to winning students upon presentation of proof of registration at any accredited college, university, or technical school in any state.

Choose one of the questions below:

- Technology is changing how we use electricity (streaming, AI, smart devices, etc.). How do you think AI and automation will shape energy use over the next 10 years?
- What role should electric utilities play in accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and what challenges must be overcome to achieve this shift?
- Electric cooperatives are rooted in concern for community. In a time of rapid energy transition, how should co-ops apply this principle to support the long-term well-being of the communities they serve?

1. You must be a son/daughter (or under legal guardianship) of an **active member** of PPCS residing in the same household.
2. You must be in your senior year of high school at the time of submitting this application. Qualified students in their last year of secondary schooling (home school) are also eligible.
3. Essays should be based on PPCS or electric industry information available at: www.piercepepin.coop.
4. Use personal experiences to demonstrate your understanding of how cooperatives impact the community.
5. Your essay will be scored on knowledge of the subject, originality, grammar, spelling, and neatness.
6. Only essays postmarked by the due date will be reviewed by our panel of judges.
7. Essays must be a minimum of 600 words and not more than 1,200 words (approximately 2 to 4 typewritten pages).
8. Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and on white letter-sized paper. (Essays will need to be copied for distribution to the judges, so please be sure your essay will copy clearly.)
9. Scholarships must be claimed within two years of receiving your notification of scholarship selection.
10. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ESSAY.** Upload a completed **Essay Contest Form with your essay**. Essays must be submitted no later than **February 20, 2026**, at www.piercepepin.coop/scholarships-student-contests.