



2018-2019 OPEDA Scholarship Program

OPEDA will accept scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 School Year February 2018. This year OPEDA will be awarding two scholarships of \$1,500 each. OPEDA places a high premium on education and believes that its scholarships will provide valuable academic and professional opportunities in the future. The two scholarships awarded are in honor of exemplary service to OPEDA, the USDA, and our country. In 1989, the Organization of Professional Employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA) established the John W. Peterson Scholarship in recognition of Mr. Peterson's dedicated service as the 24th President of OPEDA. In 2009, OPEDA also started the Steven "Tom" Stefani Scholarship to honor Mr. Stefani's heroic service and ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. Tom Stefani, a Forest Service Range Conservationist, was serving on a voluntary assignment in Afghanistan when he was killed in an explosion that impacted his convoy.

Important Note: OPEDA members in good standing and their family members (broadly defined) are eligible to apply. Applicants must be at least a college freshman or equivalent by fall term 2018. To be considered, completed applications must be postmarked or delivered to the OPEDA Office no later than **May 31, 2018**.

If you are not currently an OPEDA Member, but would like to become a member, please complete and e-mail the following Membership Application to opeda@dm.usda.gov or mail it to OPEDA at P.O. Box 23762, Washington, DC 20026-3762:

Full Name:

USDA Agency Employed By:

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number:

E-Mail Address:

- Employee Member - \$ 52.00
- Payroll Deduction - \$ 2.00 (per pay period)
- Retired Member - \$ 25.00
- Retired Life Member- \$200.00

Please mail your check or money order (payable to OPEDA) or a copy completed payroll deduction form (AD-1054 6/89) to OPEDA, P.O. Box 23762, Washington, D.C., 20026-3762

OPEDA Scholarship Application Form 2017-2018

To be considered, Scholarship Applications must include the following:

- A completed OPEDA Scholarship Application Form for the 2017-2018 School Year
- A typed, double spaced essay, not to exceed two pages, on the topic: “Public Service is a Unique Challenge with Many Rewards.”
- One character reference. This should be a letter (no more than 2 paragraphs contained on one page) from a non-related adult e.g., teacher, coach...etc., describing how the writer has come to know the applicant and what the strengths of the applicant are.
- A sealed original of most recent high school or college transcript showing a cumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher.
- A list and brief description of awards and extracurricular and community service accomplishments.

OPEDA Membership Status: ____ Current Member ____ New Member ____ Family of Member

1. Full Name:
2. Complete Mailing Address:
3. Telephone Number:
4. E-mail Address:
5. Sponsoring OPEDA Member’s Full Name: *(self or sponsoring family member’s full name)*
6. Sponsor’s Relationship to applicant:
7. Sponsor’s Work Telephone Number:
8. Applicant’s Most Recent Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) *(must be equal to or higher than 2.8 on a 4.0 scale)*
9. Full Name and Address of the College that the applicant attends or plans to attend during the 2018/2019 school year
10. Admission status and class schedule as of fall 2018 if known *(can also be satisfied with current transcript if applicable).*

Please mail application and documents to: Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 23762, Washington, DC 20026-3762
For further information on the OPEDA Scholarship Program, please contact OPEDA at 202-720-4898, visit www.OPEDA.org, or e-mail opeda@dm.usda.gov.