



Service-Based Scholarships **INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS**

Bonner Leader Program & Service Scholars Program

Lees-McRae College invites all students to apply for the Service-Based Scholars Program. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will be contacted by the Community Outreach Office to schedule an on-campus interview. Interview groups, composed of Lees-McRae faculty, staff, and current scholars, make award decisions for two prestigious scholarships: Bonner Leader Program and the Service Scholar Program. Each scholarship has slightly different eligibility criteria and maintenance requirements, but all encourage high academic achievement, community service, and student leadership both on and off campus.

Read more about the program and scholarships online:
www.lmc.edu/web/StudentDevelopment/CommunityService/.

Bonner Leader Description

The Americorps Bonner Leaders Program is a service scholarship program for students who have a sincere interest in working to make communities better. Students serve their community by tutoring in schools, staffing a domestic abuse crisis line, building playgrounds, educating their peers about hunger and homelessness issues, building nature trails and animal habitats and much more. Students work at individual service placements 8-10 hours per week and participate in monthly group service projects, group meetings as well as retreats and reflections. In exchange for hard work and dedication, the Americorps Bonner Leaders program will reward participants with \$4,725 in education awards and \$7,366 in work-study income, totaling up to \$12,091 over a four year period. In addition, students who continue their service work in the Banner Elk community during the summer months will receive free on-campus housing and tuition for two summers.

Service Scholars Description

The Service Scholars Program is a service scholarship for students with a strong academic history who are interested in incorporating service with their college education. Students who are a part of this program determine their individual projects or events for each semester and can work on or off campus in community based or religious organizations. Participants will also attend weekly meetings, retreats and participate in various forms of reflection. For each semester that students successfully complete the program they will receive \$1,000 in a scholarship award; totaling up to \$8,000 over a four year period.

Eligibility Criteria – Bonner Leaders Program

All students are encouraged to apply for the Bonner Leaders Program. Preference will be given to those students with at least a 2.5 GPA and financial need as defined by the FASFA.

Eligibility Criteria – Service Scholars Program

To apply for the Service Scholars Program, High School students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and either a minimum combined SAT-Critical Reasoning (Verbal)/SAT-Math score of 1000 or a minimum composite ACT score of 21. College Transfer Students must have a minimum 15 transferable college credits and a 3.0 GPA. Preference will be given to those students with financial need as defined by the FAFSA.

Participation Requirements – Bonner Leader Program

- Maintain a 2.5 GPA
- Minimum of 150 hours of service each semester (8-10 each week)
- Attend a retreat prior to the start of the first year in the program
- Attend bi-weekly leadership seminars
- Behave in a fashion that reflects excellence in study, leadership and service

Participation Requirements – Service Scholars Program

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Participate in at least one off-campus service experience per year
- Attend 2 campus events each semester from an approved list of events including but not limited to guest speakers and special performances.
- Attend (during their first year) weekly leadership class. Attend and participate in all bi-weekly leadership classes in subsequent years.
- Attend annual orientation and training during their first semester.
- For each semester of service, participants must complete a service contract that outlines the projected service and learning goals. These goals will be evaluated on a semester basis.

How to Apply

1. Submit an application and be accepted for admission to Lees-McRae College.
2. Complete the enclosed Service-Based Scholarships Application form.
3. Identify two individuals to act as references. One must be a high school teacher; the other may be any individual other than a relative—e.g., another teacher, an employer, a community service partner, a pastor, a mentor.
4. Mail your completed application materials to the following address:

Selena Hilemon
Director of Community Outreach
PO Box 3722
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Direct any questions to: Selena Hilemon
828.898.3318
hilemons@lmc.edu



Service-Based Scholarships APPLICATION

Bonner Leader & Service Scholar Application

This is a competitive application process. Please be thorough in your responses. Please type your responses.

Application for: Bonner Leader Program ☐ Service Scholar Program (*you may check both*)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Anticipated Major _____

High School _____ Hometown Newspaper _____

High School GPA/ Scale _____/_____ Class Rank/Size _____/_____

SAT: Critical Reasoning (Verbal) _____ Math _____ Writing _____ Combine _____

ACT: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Composite _____

College Transfer Students: College/University _____ Credits _____ GPA _____

Reference #1 _____ #2 _____

In the space below please list any honors, awards positions, memberships, activities, or community service projects that you believe demonstrate your qualities as a scholar and a leader. (You may attach a one-page resume')

Please verify that you have completed this application form in its entirety.

Signature of Applicant

Date of Application

Please return this completed form and your application to:

(Application review begins Jan. 31. Applications will be reviewed as received after that date.)

*Lees-McRae College
Attn: Selena Hilemon
PO Box 3722
Banner Elk, NC 28604*



APPLICATION (Essay Portion) FOR SERVICE-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Please respond to the following questions. This application is designed to take no more than an hour to complete. Please type your responses.

1. List the different service activities you have been involved in and/or the family responsibilities you have had over the past four years.
2. Choose an activity in which you assumed significant leadership responsibility. Describe the experience and how it will benefit you in future community service. (Attach additional sheets if needed, or use the back of this application form.)

3. Explain how you believe the Service Scholars Program would be beneficial to you in terms of your education and future career goals.

4. Describe the talents, skills, sensitivity, and perspective that you bring to service work.

5. What social issue or community concern would you like to address over your four years as a participant in one of the Service Scholars Programs? Why is this important to you?

6. Name a person who has inspired you to serve. Briefly describe how he or she has challenged you.

Please submit two references with your application. One reference should be written by a teacher from your high school and the other can come from a supervisor or member of a community agency, church, or organization with which you have been involved. Please have the person completing the reference return the information to you in a sealed envelope with his or her signature signed across the seal. These references should accompany your application.

When complete, return your application to
Selena Hilemon
Community Outreach Office
Lees-McRae College
P. O. Box 3722
Banner Elk, NC 28604



Service-Based Scholars Programs

RECOMMENDATION LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

Bonner Leader Program & Service Scholars Program

Applicant's Name _____ Application Deadline _____

Thank you for recommending this student for the Lees-McRae Service-Based Scholars Program. Your letter will be read by an interview group composed of faculty, staff, and current scholars who make award decisions for two prestigious scholarships. To ensure references' candor, recommendations are confidential and will be destroyed after the interview.

Please begin your letter by explaining your relationship with the applicant. In the body, address those qualities in the applicant that you believe make him or her an exceptional candidate for the Lees-McRae College Service-Based Scholars Program. Interviewers are particularly interested in learning about an applicant's skills (creativity, critical reasoning, oral communications, and written communications) and character (empathy, initiative, integrity, leadership, maturity, and work ethic). When possible, please provide concrete examples.

Please print your letter on institutional letterhead (as appropriate), and sign and date it. When you have finished, please seal it in an envelope, sign your name across the seal, and send it to the following address:

Lees-McRae College Attn: Selena Hilemon PO Box 3722 Banner Elk, NC 28604

Thank you again!



Service-Based Scholars Programs

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