

Second Baptist Church

Elsie Smith Scholarship Fund



Second Baptist Church
156 South Joliet Street
Joliet, Illinois 60436

Rev. Larry V. Tyler – Pastor
Rev. John Beckley – Assist. Pastor
Rev. DeAndre Robinson – Youth Pastor



Elsie Smith
Scholarship Fund

THE HISTORY OF SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Second Baptist has always been a church that values the education of its youth.

In nineteen hundred seventy-three, one of its members, the late Mrs. Vivian Pennymon, expressed the desire to start a church scholarship fund. The first scholarship committee was formed under the leadership of Deacon Henry Pennymon.

The purpose of the scholarship was two-fold:

1. To provide an incentive for the youth of Second Baptist to continue their education.
2. To inspire the membership to develop the mindset that it is the church's responsibility to assist with the education of its youth.

Criteria: One must be college bound and active in the church and the community. A point system was established as a means of selecting the most qualified candidate.

After several years the scholarship fund was revamped and lead by Rev. John Beckley, who has a heart for young people, and named it the ***Elsie Smith Scholarship Fund***, honoring Mrs. Smith for her years of service to the youth at Second Baptist Church. All applicants who goes to Second Baptist Church received a love gift from the scholarship fund. The person or persons who received the main scholarship will be selected based on his/her commitment to the church, as well as their need. Numerous scholarships has been distributed to date.

The scholarship fund, now lead by the Christian Education Ministry, is still going strong, and will continue with the same purpose and criteria as originally established, including GPA status. Applications will be reviewed and love gifts (determining budget) will be disbursed on a case by case basis. **Scholarships will be announced/distributed the 5th Sunday of August during service. All applicants or parental representative ARE REQUIRED to be present at the service. If you are the designated winner and you are not present, your award will not be distributed.**

How Do I Apply?



In order to apply for a scholarship, you need to do the following:

1. Complete the attached application, or visit the website and download the form.
2. Collect all required documents listed in the application.
3. Ask someone to provide us with a letter of recommendation in support of your application
4. Complete the letter of recommendation waiver form, and give it to the person writing the letter. (Form is also available on our website.)
5. Return application and required documents to the Christian Education Ministry in the attached folder by the 3rd Sunday of August.
6. Scholarships will be distributed the 5th Sunday of August. **All applicants ARE REQUIRED to be present at the service. If you are the designated winner and you are not present, your award will not be distributed.**

INSTRUCTIONS

Carefully read and follow the guidelines below and complete the application in its entirety. The application deadline is **August 16, 2015**. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all application materials arrive by the deadline. Incomplete applications, or applications received after **August 16, 2015**, will not be considered. If you have any questions, please contact the Christian Education Ministry: Edith Fairley at 815-726-3731; or Valarie Hunt at 630-901-2966 or sbcjoliet@ameritech.net.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applicant must be an active member of Second Baptist Church.
- Applicant must be enrolled part-time or full-time, or applying to a 4-year college, university, junior or community college.
- Applicant must have an acceptable GPA (minimum: C average)
- Scholarships will be paid out in August on 5th Sunday (**8/30/2015**). All applicants ***must be*** present for this service.
- Scholarships will be applied directly to the student's school account and may cover tuition, books and/or registration fees.
- Additional information may be required. Program and guidelines are subject to change.

REQUIREMENTS

Complete the following application in its entirety. Use additional sheets as needed to respond fully.

In order to be considered for a scholarship, all application materials, including (1) all pages of the application, (2) an official transcript or acceptance letter, (3) one essay per scholarship, (4) a list of various extracurricular, community, and/or church activities that you were involved in during 2015, and (5) one letter of recommendation must be received by **August 16, 2015**. These pages of instructions should not be submitted with the application.

Your first and last name must appear on the top of each page of the application. Do not staple any of the pages in your application.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

- Photocopies of transcripts or transcripts downloaded from the internet are not acceptable unless they bear an original stamp or seal from your academic institution.
- Transcripts may be included with the application packet only if the transcript is signed and sealed by the institution. Transcripts may also be mailed directly to the Scholarship Selection Committee by the institution, however, they still must be received by August 16, 2015.
- An applicant entering college must provide an official high school transcript or acceptance letter. Home-schooled applicants must submit official documentation indicating the curriculum studied and grades obtained.
- An applicant already in college or transferring from a junior college must provide the most recent official college transcript.
- Do not delay your application in order to obtain a more current transcript.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

- One letter of recommendation is required. This person should be able to describe her/his relationship with you and be able to speak in detail to your character. This person must also be willing and able to answer any relevant questions the Scholarship Selection Committee might have about you. Make sure to sign the waiver statement concerning this letter of recommendation before giving it to the person writing the letter. The letter should be included with the application.
- To ensure your letter of recommendation is received by the August 16th deadline, check with the individual writing the letter of reference well ahead of the deadline.
- Applications missing a letter of reference after August 16th will be considered incomplete and will be rejected.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

This should be no more than one page. This list may include all activities and organizations that you are involved in through church, school, and/or other areas that you feel display your Christian character. Completed applications should be given to: The Christian Education Ministry: Attn: Edith Fairley or Valarie Hunt.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

If you are a recipient of the Elsie Smith Scholarship, you will be required to give a copy of your grades to the Christian Education Ministry for the entire school year.

You also must give a testimony regarding the scholarship and the means on how it helped you throughout the school year. Testimony must be given during church service on specified date set by the committee, or before June 2016.

Applicant Name: _____

Please check the box(s) to indicate which scholarship(s) you are applying.

☐ Elsie Smith Scholarship ☐ Other _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name	_____
Mailing Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____
Phone	_____
E-mail	_____
Date of birth	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	_____
Parent/Guardian Phone Number	_____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

School Attended	_____
Grade Point Average	_____
Do you have siblings attending college?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
If yes, how many and where	_____

Applicant Name: _____

If you have decided which school you will attend during the 2015-2016 school year, please provide information pertaining to the annual projected costs of only that school. If you have not decided which school you will attend, please provide information regarding two of the schools at which you have been accepted.

School 1

Name of College/University _____

Application fees \$ _____

Tuition \$ _____

Books \$ _____

Room and Board \$ _____

Other (separate page) \$ _____

TOTAL ANNUAL projected costs:\$ _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION

Church Activities:

Community Activities:

SIGNATURE

I verify that the above information is true and accurate. I have also read the information concerning the amounts, requirements and conditions of the scholarship. By signing this form, I am validating that I qualify for this scholarship according to the conditions and requirements listed above. I also authorize SBC to verify the information contained herein.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

ESSAY CHECKLIST

- Your first and last name must appear on the top of each essay page.
- Submit 1 copy of your essay for the Scholarship Selection Committee.
- Address essay topic in 300 words (minimum). If the length of your response falls outside of the word count, your application may be disqualified.

ESSAY TOPIC

This year's theme is, "***Perseverance in Perilous Times: Faith, Focus and Fitness to Finish the Call of Christ***" - Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:14; Revelation 3:10.

What does this concept mean to you according to the scriptures?

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION WAIVER

Instructions for Applicant: Review and complete Part I of this form. Select a church leader, someone unrelated or related to you, who has an in-depth understanding of your Christian life, including your character and involvement in your church and the community. Once you have completed Part I, forward both pages of this form to the person who has agreed to provide a letter of recommendation (the Recommendation Provider) with a enclosed stamped envelope addressed to: **Second Baptist Church, Scholarship Fund, Attn: Christian Education Ministry, 156 South Joliet Street, Joliet, IL 60436.**

Deadline: In order to be considered for a scholarship, all application materials, including the letter of recommendation, must be **received by August 16, 2015.** **It is the responsibility of the** applicant to ensure that all materials are received by the deadline.

I. Applicant Information

A. **Applicant Name:** _____

B. **Waiver: Although you may be legally entitled to access the letter of recommendation** pertaining your scholarship application, you may waive your right of access. Failure to waive your access right will not prejudice your application.

Check one of the following boxes:

- ☐ I hereby waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation. In so doing, I authorize the Reference Provider to provide a candid evaluation.
- ☐ I do not waive my right of access to this letter of recommendation.

C. **Applicant's Signature: I have read, understood, and completed Part I of this form.**

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

II. Information for Recommendation Provider

A. Instructions: Please mail this form along with your letter of recommendation to the address provided in the Instructions for Applicant (above). All application materials must be **received by August 16, 2015.**

B. Questions for Recommendation Provider:

- (1) What is your name? _____
- (2) For how long, and in what capacity, have you known the applicant? _____

(3) Does a member of the Scholarship Selection Committee have permission to contact you in order to verify the information contained within your letter?

Please indicate either Yes or No. _____
If so, what is your telephone number and/or email address?

C. Nature of Recommendation:
It is the mission of Second Baptist Scholarship Fund (SBSF) to develop leaders within the Second Baptist Church who are committed to serving both their church and their community.
In your letter, please provide specific instances in which the applicant demonstrated service and commitment to her/his church and/or community by exhibiting particularly high levels of maturity, character, and/or leadership. Your recommendation will be very important to the Scholarship Selection Committee, particularly if it provides specific information distinguishing the applicant from other qualified applicants.