2024 ARDA Scholarship Application

Announcement of 2024 ARDA Scholarship Program

The American Railway Development Association is pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship to an undergraduate and or graduate-level student who is sponsored by a current ARDA member.

About ARDA

The American Railway Development Association (ARDA) is a not-for-profit educational trade association founded in 1906 to promote Economic Development, Real Estate Development, Technology, and Environmental Activities of North American Railroads. ARDA achieves this through the advancement of ideas and education of members to further promote the effectiveness of railway development.

ARDA encourages membership from all classes of railroads throughout North America. Members also include professionals from other associations, agencies, and railroad service partners that have a direct effect on rail business today. ARDA's membership variety provides a wide perspective on issues facing the railroad industry in the 21st Century.

Note: If you are having trouble with this application, please reach out to staff@amraildev.com

Amount Of Award

This year, ARDA is offering two scholarships:
(1) $5,000 Scholarship to either an undergraduate or graduate students.
(1) $2,500 Scholarship to either an undergraduate or graduate students.

Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the student at the beginning of the next term of study.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must:
- Be sponsored by a current Active or Honorary ARDA member. ARDA members are permitted to sponsor one applicant per sponsorship year.
- Be enrolled either:
  - As a full-time college student at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university, pursuing an associate, bachelor's, or graduate-level degree.
  - As a high school student expecting to graduate and have confirmed your enrollment at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university.

Application Deadline

A complete application and all accompanying materials must be submitted by April 15, 2024, for consideration. The absence of any of the materials listed in the next section will render the application incomplete.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for this scholarship, all materials listed below must be submitted to the ARDA Scholarship Committee:

1. A completed Application for the ARDA Scholarship Program, including the narrative specified in Section E of the application. Please complete this online form, which will fulfill this requirement.
2. A letter written from an Active or Honorary ARDA member, who is current on dues for the 2023-2024 ARDA membership year, confirming their sponsorship of the applicant. Sponsorship letters this year are to be submitted electronically directly from the sponsor.
3. An official transcript from all schools attended, including high school and each college attended indicating all college-level work completed through the fall semester of 2023. The transcript(s) should list courses taken or in which currently enrolled. Graduate and undergraduate applicants entering their junior and senior year in college are not required to provide high school transcripts.
4. Two letters of recommendation written on official letterhead. At least one of the letters must be from a faculty member from an educational institution the applicant attended in the past, or at which is currently enrolled. Please note both letters of recommendation must be submitted directly from the reference.

All materials must be submitted electronically to staff@amraildev.com by April 15, 2024

A. BACKGROUND
1. Name
2. Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
3. Telephone Number
4. Email Address
5. Date of Birth
6. Name and Employer of Sponsoring ARDA Member
7. What sources of income, including scholarships, will you have while attending college in the fall?

B. EDUCATION
8. Current Year in School
9. High School Attended (Name, City, State, Dates of Attendance
10. High School Diploma or Equivalent Received (Yes/No/Anticipated at end of School Year)
11. High School GPA (Only needed if you are a high school senior entering college)
12. Anticipated College or University for School Year 2024-2025 (Name, City State)
13. Current College or University (Name, City, State, Dates of Attendance)
14. Other Colleges or Universities Attended (Name, City State, Dates of Attendance)
15. College GPA
16. Degree Type (Associates, Bachelors, Masters, etc....)
17. Major Course of Study
18. List any other schools attended, e.g., vocational, or industrial schools, etc., including dates of attendance and subjects completed.

C. WORK EXPERIENCE (Most recent first)

27. Work Experience – 1 (Employers Name, Address, Phone Number, Title of Position & Description of Duties, Period of Employment (Ex. Sept 2022-Dec 2023)
28. Work Experience – 2 (Employers Name, Address, Phone Number, Title of Position & Description of Duties, Period of Employment (Ex. Sept 2022-Dec 2023)
29. Work Experience – (Optional, if more than 2)

D. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND HONORS
35. List professional societies, civic organizations, important committees or other significant organizations or activities in which you participate.
36. List honors or special awards in recognition of your professional or community activities.

E. ANTICIPATED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY STUDY PROGRAM

Please prepare a narrative, not exceeding 1,500 words, on a separate double-spaced PDF or Word Document titled "Narrative" with your name at the top. In your narrative include the following:
1. A brief description of your present and any future study program.
2. Any research projects or school activities in which you are now or have been involved.
3. Post-graduate plans.
4. Why you feel you are deserving of this scholarship.
5. How you think you can benefit society by pursuing a career in the rail industry.
6. Any other pertinent information you feel is important to your application.

Please email your completed narrative to staff@amraildev.com

F. REFERENCE AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Provide the names and addresses of two references who will write letters of recommendation for you. One letter must be from a faculty member at an education institution in which you are currently enrolled or attended in the past and must be on official letterhead. The second reference may include another faculty member, your department head, or current or former employer. This letter should also be written on official letterhead. It is your responsibility to obtain the references and request that they submit their letter directly to the ARDA Scholarship Committee postmarked no later than April 15, 2024. Letters of recommendation may be submitted electronically via email to staff@amraildev.com. Emails must come directly from the reference.

37. Reference 1 Name, Title, Institution/Company, Phone Number, Office Address (City State, Zip)
38. Reference 2 Name, Title, Institution/Company, Phone Number, Office Address (City State, Zip)

Signature of Applicant

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ALL STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS APPLICATION ARE CORRECT AND, IF SELECTED, I AGREE TO UTILIZE THE MONIES FOR THE PURPOSE STATED.

39. Please type name