

# The Alton E. and Thelma McCartney Scholarship

*Through*  
*Merchants and Planters Bank Trust Department*  
*P. O. Box 650*  
*Newport, Arkansas 72112*

*Merchants and Planters Bank*  
*"Building for the Future"*  
Member FDIC

*Scholarship Application Form*  
*For First Time Applicants*

**Deadline: MARCH 16, 2026**

## **ALTON E. AND THELMA MCCARTNEY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Mr. and Mrs. McCartney, Jackson County natives, established the Alton E. and Thelma McCartney Scholarship to aid graduates of high schools within Jackson County. Students must have graduated from **Newport High School**, or **Jackson County High School** (previously **Tuckerman High School**, **Swifton High School**, and **Grubbs High School**) to qualify for the scholarship.

**All portions of the applications must be completed for you to be considered. If for some reason you cannot complete all portions, please include a brief explanation.**

*Application instructions:*

**Personal Information:** **Please provide a permanent address and phone number.**

**Leadership Capabilities:** Please provide information about your high school and college experiences (if applicable).

**Educational Background and Academic Abilities:** Please provide the specified information. If we do not receive this information, the application will not be considered.

**Personal Goals and Recommendations:** Please provide as specified in the application.

**DEADLINE:** The application must be returned to the main office or the Solution Center of Merchants and Planters Bank by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date or be postmarked by the deadline date. The main office of Merchants and Planters Bank is located at **Second and Hazel Streets**, downtown Newport, the Solution Center is located at **320 Front Street**, downtown Newport. The mailing address is

**Merchants and Planters Bank**

**Attn: Fernita Robinson**

**P.O. Box 650**

**Newport, AR 72112**

**\*\*If the application is not received by the deadline date, it will absolutely not be considered. \*\***

**\*\*Please remember to sign your application and include a current photo. \*\***

If you are chosen as a recipient, the scholarship proceeds will be sent to the school of your choice. The proceeds may be used only for tuition, books, fees, and on-campus room-and-board.

The schools are instructed to apply one-half of the total scholarship awarded for the first semester and retain the second half to be used for the second semester. Exceptions may apply with the approval of the Merchants and Planters Bank Trust Department. When the student is no longer enrolled, the schools are instructed to return any unused funds to the Trust. We request that the amount of other scholarships awarded to students not be reduced because of the McCartney Scholarship.

If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be notified by mail. **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE** the college information form that will be enclosed with your award letter. **YOU MUST RETURN** the form by the stated deadline date.

If you have any other questions concerning the scholarship, please contact Fernita Robinson at (870) 523-3601 ext. 1182 or Nate Watson at (870) 523-3601 ext. 1194.

**Please submit with application**  
**ALTON E. AND THELMA MCCARTNEY SCHOLARSHIP**  
**2026 First Time Application Checklist**  
**Please check all items included.**

☐

**Completed and signed application**

☐

**High School Transcript (must be submitted)**

☐

**Proof of ACT Score (must be submitted)**

☐

**Two Letters of Recommendation (must be submitted)**

☐

**Personal Goals Essay (must be submitted)**

☐

**Current Photo**

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature on this form acknowledges that you have included all the required documentation with your scholarship application. **Applications returned without all proper documentation may not be considered for a Scholarship Award.**

Thank you,  
***The Trust Committee***

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
**For First Time Applicants**

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION: (Please print or type)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ HOME OR CELL# \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**II. LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES:** List clubs and community organizations in which you have been a member or an officer. (Continue list on separate sheet if needed.)

Club Name/Organization	Years of Membership	Office(s) Held
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**III. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND GOALS:**

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Location of College You Plan to Attend \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Area of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* YOU MUST BE REGISTERED FOR 12 HOURS AS A FULL TIME COLLEGE STUDENT \*\***

**IV. ACADEMIC ABILITIES:**

Cumulative Grade Point Average in Grades 9 through 12 \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Times ACT has been taken \_\_\_\_\_ Last Date ACT was taken \_\_\_\_\_

Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ in a class of \_\_\_\_\_. **Please attach high school transcript.**

If you have college credit, please provide the following: Cumulative Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_  
Please attach a college transcript.

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Estimated cost the for year you are applying, to include the following: Tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Books \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Room \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Board \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**V. PERSONAL GOALS: (attach to application)**

Your ability to express yourself well is an important part of the evaluation process. The scholarship essay provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate your ability to think analytically and creatively.

- a.) List your major life goals in order of priority.
- b.) Describe your educational goals and explain how they will help you achieve your career goals
- c.) Please furnish a typed essay, in which you introduce yourself, link your personal and educational goals, and state the characteristics that best qualify you for scholarship consideration.

**VI. RECOMMENDATION:**

Please provide two (2) letters of recommendation from individuals who have firsthand knowledge of your character, abilities, and financial circumstances.

**VII. Please attach a current photo, such as (senior picture).**

**This photo will not be returned.**

**Do not forget to attach the following:**

1. High school transcript
2. College transcript (if applicable)
3. Personal Goals (including essay)
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. Current photo

**DEADLINE: March 16, 2026**

**\*\* Applications received after the deadline absolutely will not be considered.**

Finalists may be asked to appear for personal interview.

**MAIL INFORMATION TO:**

**Merchants and Planters Bank  
Attn: Fernita Robinson  
P. O. Box 650  
Newport, AR 72112**

Your signature authorizes release of photo and/or information concerning your scholarship application, and any award that might be made.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**The following information is very important.**

**DEADLINE: March 16, 2026**

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**NO PHONE CALLS WILL BE MADE TO REMIND YOU OF THIS REQUIREMENT.**