







**Orange County Rural Electric Community Fund, INC.**

**PO Box 208**

**Orleans IN 47452**

**(812) 865-2229 or (888) 337-5900**

<http://www.myremc.coop>

[srslaten@myremc.coop](mailto:srslaten@myremc.coop)

## **Scholarship Guidelines**

**GOALS:** To recognize the academic and community achievements of outstanding young people and assist in developing their understanding of community issues.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any youth now enrolled as a senior in high school, who plans to attend an accredited post-secondary school, and who has a parent, legal guardian, or primary relative that is a member of Orange County REMC and participating in Operation Roundup at the time of scholarship consideration is eligible. The contest applies only to Orange County REMC member households, and not those of other area REMC's.

**PRIZES:** There are 6 - \$750.00 scholarships that are available. One scholarship will be granted to an applicant from Orleans, Paoli Jr. Sr., Springs Valley, Mitchell, Crawford and West Washington High Schools.

**PUBLICATION:** Please include a photo of yourself for publication. If space permits, part or a scholarship recipient's entire essay may be published in the Orange County REMC Electric Consumer.

**JUDGES:** The Orange County REMC General Manager and the coordinator for Operation Roundup Trust will verify applicant eligibility. Essays will be presented with the identity of the applicant withheld, to three representatives from the Operation Round Up board of trustees for final judgment.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** The essay must be 700 words, but not more than 1000 words. Content is much more important than length. The essay should be printed neatly or typed, and will be evaluated on content rather than penmanship. While the essay makes up half your final score, there are other areas that are just as important. Please list other activities as well – at school, church, at work, in your community, etc. Also, verification of your grade point level must be provided for the current school year, and at least one prior school year (include more, if you so choose). You may provide up to three letters of recommendation. Judges will look at overall achievements and accomplishments – not just your writing ability or GPA.

**SCORING:** Applications will be evaluated on the following:

**50% ESSAY:** The essay will be judged on originality and content. Is it informative and thought provoking? Are assertions and comments supported with facts or practical ideas? Is it written from a young person's point of view? Remember, the essay should be the work of the student applying for the scholarship. Editing, grammar, sentence structure etc., will be considered.

**25% COMMUNITY/SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT:** Student activities in school, at home, community, work, etc., will enhance a student's application. Be sure to mention any special recognitions, offices you now or have held in the past, or awards you might have received.

**25% ACADEMICS/LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** Each applicant must verify their academic standing for the current school year, and at least the previous year as well. Have your guidance department fill in the appropriate line on the application, or include a letter from a guidance counselor simply verifying your overall grade point average for the current and past year. A transcript is not necessary, but may be included if it is easier than a letter. Class ranking, if possible, is also helpful. You may submit up to three letters of recommendation from non-family members (teacher, employer, community leader, guidance counselor, pastor etc.) An exception is permitted to home schooled applicants who wish to have a letter presented from a parent instructor. All letters are optional.

**POSSIBLE INTERVIEW FOR FINALISTS:** In the event the judging is close, several finalists may be asked to take part in an interview with the judges. The interview will be kept very informal and will be brief and will focus on a student's goals, personality, initiative, etc.

**HELPFUL HINTS:** Ask yourself: What do I think? Who – what – when – where – why – how... Then explain these thoughts in a logical manner. Keep in mind the judges want essays written by young people. Help from parents or teachers are encouraged, but the emphasis should be on your ideas and thoughts.

**REFERENCES:** A participant may put his or her name on or in the paper. Students are encouraged to interview and quote recognized local authorities or reliable sources, including REMC members and employees as well as Operation Roundup participants and directors. Appropriate credit should be given for any quotes but, a bibliography is not needed. Plagiarism is a serious offense that tarnishes and even ruins people's careers. Plagiarism is not permitted in college or business and will not be permitted in the essays. Information is available at <http://www.myremc.coop> and updates are common in Orange County Electric Consumer.

**REGISTRATION:** All participants must attach the enclosed application form to the front of their essay.

**DEADLINES:** Participants may submit their application and essay any time up to...

**February 15, 2012**

Applications may be hand delivered to the Operation Roundup Coordinator during business hours or sent to: PO Box 208 Orleans, IN 47452. Each participant should keep a photo copy of the essay.

**ESSAY TOPIC:** In 700 words or more (please limit to a maximum of 1000) please write an essay on the following...

What is Rural Electrification? When did it begin? What is an electric cooperative? How does it differ from other electric companies? Where do the profits go? What is the mission of ORANGE COUNTY REMC? How is ORANGE COUNTY REMC fulfilling its mission?

Or

What is Operation Roundup? How does it work? Where does money come from... where does it go? What is your opinion about electric cooperatives? What is your opinion about Operation Roundup and would you recommend someone participating in Operation Roundup? Why would somebody want to participate? Who should be applying for Operation Roundup funds? What benefits are there to ORANGE COUNTY REMC members who contribute to Operation Roundup? What do the recipients have to say about Operation Roundup?