

HELEN STOKES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Helen Rhead Stokes
SCPTA President 1953-1956

History

The Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Fund was started in 1956 as a tribute to the South Carolina State President, Helen Stokes. Mrs. Stokes suggested to the state board that instead of a departing president's gift, a scholarship fund be established to encourage graduating South Carolina high school seniors to enter the teaching profession. Her husband, Dr. J. Howard Stokes Sr. offered to match the money contributed by the board and the fund was established.

Over the past 50 years, the fund has sponsored many South Carolina students by awarding them scholarships to help with the cost of their education. The fund is financed through Honorary Life Membership awards, the SCPTA Spirit of PTA Award, local unit contributions, memorials, sponsorship of applicants, and corporate gifts. The number of scholarships is directly related to the amount of money taken into the fund each year. A committee from the SCPTA board of directors is responsible for the administrative duties of the fund and awarding of scholarships.

Eligibility

- Scholarship applicant must be a senior at a South Carolina high school.
- Applicant must be a South Carolina resident for at least one (1) year.
- Applicants will be judged on the following criteria: academic record, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, SAT/ACT scores, and an essay.
- Recipients must plan to attend an accredited college in South Carolina.
- Scholarships are for one (1) year: \$500 for Fall Semester only.
- The Helen Stokes Scholarship committee shall review all applications and shall have full authority to grant scholarships. All decisions of the committee are final.
- All applications **must** be accompanied by a sponsorship letter from a local PTA/PTSA in good standing with the SCPTA. (If an applicant attends a high school without a PTA, the student may be sponsored by any elementary, middle, or junior high school, which is considered a feeder school of that high school.)
- The PTA/PTSA recommending the applicant must contribute at least \$25.00 per applicant before March 1 of the current year to the Helen Stokes Memorial Fund. PTA/PTSA units must also be in good standing with the SCPTA to sponsor a student. Note: Honorary Life Membership award contributions may be used toward sponsoring a student.
- The Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Fund application form on the Leaders' Tool Kit CD.



Helen Stokes Memorial Scholarship Application

(Must be postmarked by March 1)

To be considered for the Helen Stokes Scholarship the following items must be submitted together in one envelope:

1. Complete application form
2. Transcript of grades
3. Two (2) academic letters of recommendation (principal, teacher, counselor)
4. One (1) Character letter of recommendation (pastor, employer, etc.)
5. Letter of sponsorship from a SC PTA/PTSA unit in good standing with the SCPTA, and \$25.00 contribution to the Helen Stokes Scholarship fund. This can be in the form of a Life Membership.
6. Essay- Why Do Schools Need PTA? (250 words or less)
7. **Any incomplete application will be disqualified.**



STUDENT COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Personal Data (Please print clearly)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____, SC Zip code _____

Phone (____) _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Parent or Guardian _____

School Data

Name of High School _____ Graduation date _____

School Address _____

City _____, SC Zip code _____

SOUTH CAROLINA PTA



College Choices (*in South Carolina*) _____

Extra-curricular Activities _____

Offices or leadership positions held _____

School clubs, organizations, sports, fine arts, etc. in which you actively participated _____

List any honors or awards received in high school _____

Describe any community service, or special interests you have outside of school _____

List any scholarships you have currently received _____

List other members of your household; give age of each and school or college (if any) _____



GUIDANCE COUNSELOR COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Please submit

1. Student transcript of grades
2. SAT Scores _____ ACT Scores _____
3. GPR/GPA _____
4. Class Rank _____ out of _____
5. School Phone () _____

Signature of Guidance Counselor _____ Date _____



ESSAY: To be completed by the student in 250 words or less

“Why Do Schools Need PTA?”

Name of local PTA/PTSA unit sponsor _____

PTA/PTSA District # _____

\$25.00 Contribution Enclosed: YES NO (if no, please explain)

Mailing information

All applications and attachments must be **postmarked by March 1st**. Mail all applications and sponsorship checks to:

Helen Stokes Scholarship
SCPTA
1826 Henderson St.
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Attachments will not be returned