



The Dinah K. Somerville Annual Scholarship Award

**The 2024 Black History Month
“Theme: African Americans and the Arts”**

The St. Mary’s County Black History Coalition (SMCBHC) will award their 12th Annual Dinah K. Somerville Scholarships to deserving students who are accepted to or currently attending an accredited college, university, trade, or technical school for the 2024-2025 school year. The SMCBHC will award four students \$1,000.00 each, directly payable to the institution of their choice.

Interested applicants must complete and submit an application by the January 26, 2024, due date. Eligibility requirements and application instructions are available on Page 2.

Applications must be submitted to:

The Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 829
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
or
smcbhc@gmail.com

For additional information and/or inquiries please contact the SMCBHC at smcbhc@gmail.com.

Awards, Eligibility Requirements, and Application Scholarship Instructions

Scholarship Awards

- Four, one thousand dollars (**\$1,000/student**) scholarships will be awarded to four deserving students who are accepted to or currently attending an accredited College, University, Trade or Technical school
- Application deadline is January 26, 2024
- Candidates will be notified of their application status by February 9, 2024.
- Scholarship funds will be payable to the college or other institutes of higher learning. It will be available by the first Semester of the 2024-2025 academic year
- Scholarships will be awarded on an objective and non-discriminatory basis. Applicants will not be assessed based on race, creed, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability.

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Citizen
- Attended High school in St. Mary's County or currently attending an accredited College, University, Trade or Technical school.
- Minimum Grade Point Average (**GPA**) of **3.0**
- Current involvement in one or more of the following activities:
 - Community Service Project
 - Volunteer Work
 - Athletics, performing arts, or another group/team participation
 - Employment
- Award recipients must attend SMCBHC Annual Award Ceremony and Black History Celebration on Sunday, February 25, 2024, to receive the scholarship.

Application Process and Supporting Documents

- Complete scholarship application (pages 3 and 4)
- Provide an essay (800 – 1000 words) from the topics listed on Page 6 of the Essay Questions sheet.
- Prospective Students must include a copy of their acceptance letter to an accredited institution of higher learning.
- Include a current high school, college, university, trade, or technical school transcript, containing GPA.

Mail completed application with supporting documents to:

The Dinah K. Somerville Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 829
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than **January 26, 2024**.

Electronic application and supporting documents (essay, acceptance letter, and transcript) must be received via SMCBHC email (smcbhc@gmail.com) not later than **January 26, 2024**.

NOTE: *Application and essay must be type-written.*

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APPLICATION

Postmark Deadline: January 26, 2024

Please review the Application Process Instructions before proceeding.

Personal Information

Gender: Female Male

Name: Last _____ First: _____ Middle Initial _____

Preferred mailing address for notification (i.e., parent, school, home address)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: () _____ Primary email address _____

High School Attended _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone () _____ **Name Your Guidance Counsellor** _____

List your accepted institution of learning for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Course of study/ Major: _____

Desired career or profession _____

Starting with your most recent, list service activities that you have been involved in during your academic years. These recognized activities include work experience, community service, honors, and awards, leadership, and other extracurricular activities.

If none of the above, please explain (If necessary, please include an extra page).

Activity/Organization/Your Role/Position(s) Held
(Avoid using abbreviations)

From To Weekly Hours
(mm/yy) (mm/yy)

Work Experience

Community Services

Honors and Awards

Leadership

Extracurricular Activities

Application Certification

- I certify that the information provided in my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I hereby certify all eligibility requirements, as specified in my application and accompanying instructions.
- I understand that I must notify the SMCBHC of any changes in my enrollment status.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Essay Topics

Submit an original typed essay on a separate page(s). Essay shall be double-spaced with 800-1000 words. Use 12-point font, Times New Roman, one-inch margins on top, bottom, and sides and ensure the essay is Left justified. Insert page numbers at the bottom centered (no page number on title page). The essay should fit on standard 8 ½ X 11 white paper. Include a Title Page that includes the essay topic statement and the student's full name (centered on the page).

Note: No colored text (**black text only**), pictures or computer links.

Select and respond to **ONE** of the following topic statements:

- 1) Do you think the Brown vs. Board of Education is still relevant today? If so, why, or why not?
- 2) Based upon the 2024 Black History Theme, "*African Americans and the Arts*," describe how "African Americans artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment."
- 3) How has the artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, lead people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world?
- 4) Explain what the theme "*African Americans and the Arts*" means to you.
- 5) Describe your career/degree goals. Explain how you would apply them to improve or support your community.