

## **Salem Missionary Baptist Church**

### **Academic Scholarship Application Instructions and Tips**

We are indeed grateful to God for the opportunity to encourage and assist high school seniors to begin the transition toward their educational goals. The prospect of aiding you presents the chance for getting acquainted and to know your aspirations. It is our sincere hope that you will continue to strive toward academic excellence and because you were helped that you will aid in assisting others in the same manner in the future.

Please complete the application fully and return it by **April 15, 2021\***. You may return your application to the counselors' office or hand deliver it to us.

**General Information and Eligibility requirements:** The Salem Missionary Baptist Church annually sponsors a college scholarship for high school seniors. The competitive program is open to Forrest City High School seniors who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, community service and financial need. Also eligible for consideration are high school seniors who are members of Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Forrest City, Arkansas.

**Selection Criteria:** Scholarship recipient's criteria will be based on: 1) completed applications, 2) the required letters of recommendation, 3) applicants who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, exemplary character and community service.

#### **Application Materials**

It is important to read the materials carefully and to understand what information is requested. Carefully typed or legibly written applications make the best impression. You will need to include with the application, a copy of your transcript and three (3) letters of recommendation.

#### **Your Personal Statement**

The personal statement presents an opportunity for you to speak about yourself. Your essay should show that you have ideas and opinions, that you are able to think logically and can express yourself clearly.

Clear writing is the result of clear thinking. The first and most important task is to decide what you want to say. This is a short essay. You must be highly selective. Consider carefully what you wish to impress upon the reader. Remember the nature of your audience. Do show that you have thought deeply and broadly about what you have learned in your academic career and what you hope to learn next. Do not apologize. Do not misrepresent yourself. You are writing as an adult who wishes to join the community of scholars and other professionals. Correctness and style are vital. Neatness counts. Check and check again your spelling, the agreement of verbs and persons and syntax. Also include your educational and career goals; they will complete the portrait you are composing.

### **Activities and Honors**

List all relevant activities and honors but be selective. Don't include the ones that are not significant. Most importantly, your activities should represent your varied talents and passions outside the classroom. The reviewers are trying to get a sense of who you are and what you believe in. Make sure your activities reflect that. List your employment history and responsibilities.

Finally, remember that with any application (for a job, grant, graduate school, etc.), the powers that be want to know three things: why is it important to you, why it is right for you and why you are right for it. Your application should be built around this message.

You may obtain an electronic copy of the application and by emailing Salem Missionary Baptist Church at the following address: salemmbchurch105@gmail.com

For more information, please contact:

Salem M. B. Church Scholarship Committee: 633-2596

Committee Members: Marshall James or Evelyn Turner

\*Applications are to be returned to the counselor's office, Salem M. B. Church or Marshall James by April 15, 2021 at 3 p.m. Applications not received by the deadline will not be considered.