



The Smith Mountain Branch of the American Association of University Women (SMAAUW) is offering **four \$5000 Branch scholarships** and **one \$6000 Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship** for the 2025-2026 academic year. Scholarships are awarded to assist Virginia women whose permanent residence is in Franklin, Bedford or Pittsylvania County in continuing their post-secondary education. The award is granted and administered by the Smith Mountain Branch of AAUW and will be forwarded directly to the recipient's college for tuition only.

The SMAAUW Dr. Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship

This year, one \$6000 scholarship is offered in honor of Toni Seidelmann, a longtime member and supporter of SMAAUW. The SMAAUW Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship celebrates Toni's legacy by supporting students who share her passion for STEM fields. Toni's life was defined by her dedication to education, her love for her family and friends, and her commitment to her community. In their essay, applicants are asked to reflect on how they demonstrate the values that made Toni so extraordinary—perseverance, integrity, authenticity, kindness, and a joyful spirit. (see [here](#) for a longer bio of Toni Seidelmann).

WHO SHOULD APPLY

To be considered for this scholarship you must meet the following criteria:

1. You must be a female.
2. Your primary, **permanent residence** must be in Bedford, Franklin or Pittsylvania County (including Danville City).
3. You must **currently be a student pursuing a degree in an accredited** university, college or community college in the United States.
4. You must have **completed at least one semester** at an accredited United States university, college or community college. Dual enrolled applicants who have completed at least 12 credits are also eligible.
5. If you are majoring in a STEM field, consider applying for the Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship. Note: If you are not awarded the Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship, your application will be considered for one of the Smith Mountain Branch scholarships. See application for additional details.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The decision to grant a scholarship is based on the following criteria:

1. High Academic Achievement. This is based on your last official grade report and supported by two letters of recommendation, one of which must be provided by a professor.
2. Financial Need.
3. Work Experience.
4. Volunteer Experience.
5. To be considered for the Toni Seidelmann Memorial Scholarship, the applicant must be majoring in a STEM field.

Note: Some consideration is given for first generation college attendees, non-traditional students and members of single-parent families.

APPLICATIONS (ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION IS REQUIRED)

Applications are available in college, community college or university financial aid offices, on our website smithmountain-va.aauw.net and from the Scholarship Committee contact shown below.

The following supplemental documents must be included with the completed application.

1. Essay (see application form for details).
2. Most recent official transcript.
3. Two letters of recommendation, including at least one from a professor.

All documents from the applicant should be submitted online at the [Scholarship Application portal](#).

To ensure that your materials are properly filed, **please be sure that your full name is part of the file name for each document submitted.** (If any documents are being sent directly from a university or reference, please request that they follow this convention.)

Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately to the [Scholarship Application Portal](#) or sent directly to smithmountain-va@aaaw.net. Letters of recommendation should be submitted on letterhead indicating the university or organization.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications and all supporting documents must be received **no later than 12 midnight April 1, 2025.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions may be addressed to Marsha Protinsky, Scholarship Chairperson, at smithmountain-va@aaaw.net.

APPLICATION ADVICE

Please follow the directions in the application packet carefully. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Remember to include your loans, grants and college debt on your application form and address financial need in your essay. If you are the first generation in your family to attend college, a nontraditional student or from a single parent family, please address this in your essay.

NOTE FOR AWARDEES

Winners are strongly encouraged to attend our luncheon on Saturday, May 17, 2025 in Moneta, VA for the formal presentation of awards. If this is not possible, a written acceptance statement is required and will be read at the event by the Scholarship Chair. For questions on the attendance requirement or to submit the acceptance statement, contact the Scholarship Committee chairperson at smithmountain-va@aaaw.net.