

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is an understatement but 2020 is certainly a year like no other we have experienced! I hope in the middle of all the confusion and apprehension you are safe, well, and finding moments of joy this spring. This season turns our thoughts to growth, new birth and the future. Two of the most worthwhile projects Eastern Star has to affect that future are our Future Stars and E.S.T.A.R.L. Scholarships.

The challenges our school systems are facing this year has prompted the Education Committee, with approval of our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron, has had to make some changes to this year's application. With schools having been closed for all, or the majority, of the remaining school year, and many going to alternate grading systems, students' grades for this semester will not be required. Students applying for the Future Stars Youth Scholarship will be required to include an OFFICIAL transcript showing their grades and accumulative grade point through the end of 2019 with their completed application packet. Each applicant should include a statement in their personal letter stating that they will be enrolled for the Fall 2020 semester at their chosen school. Any high school senior will be required to submit official proof of their graduation. This many include a copy of their diploma or a letter, on school letterhead, from a school administrator (principal, guidance counselor, etc.) stating their graduation prior to the June 15th application due date. If there are question regarding these changes please feel to contact me.

The Future Stars Youth Scholarship application form must be sponsored by your local chapter, sealed by the chapter Secretary and signed by the Worthy Matron to be considered. Applications, along with the required transcript, ACT/SAT score sheet, essay and 2 recommendation letters are due in their entirety by June 15th without exception. A completed application packet is to be sent to me at the provided address. No applications will be accepted via email or any other online source. If any applications are received that are incomplete, a sincere effort will be made to contact the applicant, using the provided contact information, to allow them to provide the missing information by the June 15th deadline. Applications, along with a completion check list, are available on the West Virginia Order of the Eastern Star Facebook page, web site, and from the Grand Secretary.

The E.S.T.A.R.L. Scholarship, for those young people who are attending an accredited institution to prepare them for Christian Ministry or Christian Education will also be awarded this year. As with the Future Stars Youth Scholarship, along with their completed application and recommendations, students will need to make a personal statement that they are enrolled in their program for the Fall 2020 semester and provide an OFFICIAL transcript showing their grades through the end of 2019. These applications will also need to be sponsored by a local chapter, sealed by the chapter secretary and signed by the Worthy Matron. The deadline to submit a completed application is June 15, 2020. Application for E.S.T.A.R.L. can be obtained from the Grand Secretary, on the Web site or Facebook page.

The Education Committee and I thank you in advance for your hard work toward making these programs of our Grand Chapter a success!

Star Live,

Fran Lemley, GGCCM

Education Committee Chair

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Approved by the Worthy Grand Matron, Linda Fowler via phone April 22, 2020