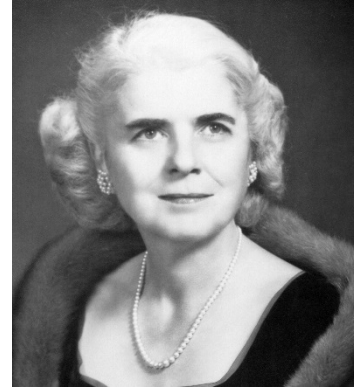


Virginia Smith Trust

Scholarship Application

2023 – 2024



In memory of Elmer E. Smith, Ursula Smith, Cyril E. Smith, and Virginia Smith

Smith Family Scholarships

Virginia and Cyril, sister and brother, grew up in Merced between 1900 and 1924. Their family home still stands on Courthouse Square. Virginia went to Dominican High School and college in San Rafael and spent her adult life in San Francisco. Cyril graduated from high school in Merced and then studied in Europe and at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a Ph.D. in History. Each honored Merced with the wonderful gift of a scholarship trust, both of which are in memory of the entire Smith Family.

DEADLINE: 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2, 2023

*Completed application and all supporting documents
must be received by the Smith Family Scholarship Office prior to the deadline.*

Contact:

Yolanda Campos
Smith Family Scholarships Office
Merced County Office of Education
632 West 13th Street Room C1
Merced, CA 95341

Email: VirginiaSmith@mcoe.org
Phone: (209) 381-6604
Fax: (209) 381-6767
www.mcoe.org/smith

Virginia Smith Scholarship Eligibility:

1. Did you attend a public high school in the City of Merced for a minimum of three (3) full years?
(El Capitan High, Golden Valley High, Merced High, Merced Scholars Charter School)
2. During those three years in high school, did you reside in Merced County?
3. Is your cumulative high school GPA 3.00 or higher, on a 4.00 system? For renewal applicants, have you maintained a cumulative college GPA 2.80 or higher, on a 4.00 system, for the school year 2022-23?
4. Will you be attending a college in the state of California, accredited by W.A.S.C.? (excluding community/junior college)
5. Will you be a full-time student next school year? (12 units undergraduate, 8 units graduate, or equivalent)

If you answered “No” to any of the above, you do not qualify for this scholarship program.

Criteria for Selection:

In addition to the requirements listed above, applicant must demonstrate that he or she is worthy, deserving, and in need of financial assistance.

- Worthy:** A student who demonstrates academic potential and has adequate or great merit, character, or value.
- Deserving:** A student who has earned recognition through good citizenship and is qualified or considered as a result of one’s actions.
- Needy:** A student who lacks a financial advantage, being in want or whose family circumstances demonstrate need.

Scholarships are awarded in recognition of outstanding prior achievement, promise of future academic excellence and successful completion of studies. Please be assured that all applications will receive appropriate consideration. The circumstances of each case shall be considered individually, and the decisions of the Trustees shall be final.

Scholarships to be Awarded:

To implement the requirements of this Trust, a scholarship committee of the Merced County Board of Education shall consider all applications and submit its recommendations to the Trustees of the Trust for final approval. Screening and selection shall be done by the Trustees, **AND ALL DECISIONS SHALL BE FINAL**. The number of scholarships to be awarded each year, the recipients and the amounts of the individual scholarships are based upon the earnings of the trust and are decisions of the Merced County Board of Education acting in its capacity as the Virginia Smith Scholarship Board and Trustees. Priority will be given to those students who have proven their personal dedication to obtaining an education, those who have been self-supporting, especially those who have worked and/or volunteered while attending school and who have supported families.

The Scholarship Committee, or their delegates, shall perform such functions as may be deemed necessary to verify the information submitted by each applicant.

Scholarship Payments:

Scholarships are paid and mailed to the University in two installments (August, January) when the school is on the semester system and in three installments when the school is on the quarter system (August, January, March).

First scholarship installment is sent to the Financial Aid Official at the recipient’s school after the Trust receives the following documentation:

- Proof of completion of full-time equivalent in the preceding term/school year.
- Proof of 3.00+ GPA for high school OR 2.80+ GPA if already in college.
- Proof of full-time enrollment for the award term at a public or private institution of higher learning, excluding community or junior colleges, in the State of California, which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. You will need to provide your university student identification number (ID#).

Application Requirements:

Please read all instructions carefully. Do not leave blanks. Write/type “N/A” for each question that does not apply to you.

- Applicants, new and renewal, must fill out and submit a completed application with supporting documents each year.
- Applicants must have attended a public high school within the City of Merced for a minimum of three years and must have been a resident of Merced County during the period of attendance.
- Applicants must have applied for admission to the public or private institution of higher learning, in the State of California, which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, excluding community or junior colleges.
- Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of not less than 3.0. Once awarded, recipients must maintain a 2.8 GPA and full-time enrollment for the academic year awarded. *If* an uncharacteristic drop occurred in your GPA, explain cause, (i.e., death in family, prolonged illness, etc.), on a separate sheet and attach to your application.
- **New** applicants must submit an **official** high school transcript (sealed in an envelope by the high school or electronically through Parchment) to verify three years of enrollment.
- Applicants must submit **official** college transcripts, including transcripts of the first semester/quarter of the current school year (*if applicable*).
- Applicants must submit a copy of their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the California Dream Act Application (only the page with the EFC number is needed). The EFC number may be obtained once the FAFSA, or California Dream Act application is filled out completely and submitted.
- Applicants must submit a signed letter of introduction, which may include the applicant’s personal history, why applicant is deserving of a scholarship, and provide examples that speak to applicant’s character.
- **New** applicants must submit a minimum of two (2) current letters of recommendation (written within six months of application deadline) from people who are not relatives of the applicant. The letters of recommendation must include the applicant’s character and/or core values **and must be signed and dated by the author**. Renewal applicants are not required to but may submit letters of recommendation.
- An **original ink signature** of the applicant and the supporting party (parent or spouse), on the last page of the application is required.
- Applicants must complete **all** divisions of the form in as much detail as possible. If you do not have the capability of completing the application using your computer, please print the application and use a typewriter or **print** in blue or black ink. Complete all blanks on the application. If the item is not applicable, please enter “n/a”.
- **Application Deadline: 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 2, 2023.** We must receive the completed application and **all** supporting documents on or before 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 2, 2022. Please understand that correct and complete information is the applicant’s responsibility. Your application will not be considered unless all instructions are followed and all accompanying data is received by the deadline.

Virginia Smith Trust Scholarship
Frequently asked questions and answers.

1. Do I need to send a high school transcript every year?

The high school transcript is only required the first year that you are awarded the scholarship.

2. What happens to information I send in?

The information is only used for evaluating your application for a scholarship for the year applied. All documents are shredded.

3. What is a "supporting party"?

"Supporting party" refers to the person or persons who assist you in affording to go to school. This is typically your parent(s)/guardian(s) or your spouse, if married.

4. I am applying for several schools but am not sure which one I will attend.

List the schools to which you have applied. If selected for a scholarship, you will need to let us know which school you select, as awards are mailed to the school, not the student. Do not forget to keep us informed of your mailing address while attending school.

5. What is considered "full-time"?

Twelve (12) units undergraduate and eight (8) units in a graduate program, per semester (two quarters) or full-time enrollment in a professional school - (medical, dental, law, etc.). Summer school does not count toward a school year for this scholarship program.

6. I received the scholarship last year. Do I need to reapply?

Yes, all applicants, new and renewal, must submit a new application each year.

7. When are payments sent?

Scholarships are paid and mailed to the university in two installments (August, January) when the school is on the semester system and in three installments when the school is on the quarter system (August, January, March).

These are mailed to the school only after all necessary documentation is received that a student qualifies at the time of the payment. The first payment is typically sent in August, the second typically in January, the third in March. These dates may change.

Smith Family
 Scholarships Office
 632 W. 13th Street Room C1
 Merced, CA 95341
 Phone: (209) 381-6604
 Fax: (209) 381-6767

**Virginia Smith Trust
 Scholarship Application
 2023 – 2024**



Virginia Smith Trust administered by the Merced County Board of Education
 In Memory of Elmer E. Smith, Ursula Smith, Cyril E. Smith, and Virginia Smith

Applicant's Information (STUDENT)

Last Name:	I am applying as a:	Office Use Only
First Name:	New Applicant	Application # _____
Middle Name:	Renewal Applicant	Date Stamp Received
Home Address:		
City:	Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:		
Email:		
Date of Birth:	Current Age:	Place of Birth:
Marital Status: Married Widowed Single Divorced		
Number of Dependents you are responsible for:		Maiden Name:
In 2023-2024 I will be a(n): Undergraduate Postgraduate		Current College Student ID Number:
Name of University you are currently attending:		
Address While at School:	City:	Zip Code:

Student Statement

Explain why you believe you qualify for consideration (attach additional sheets if necessary).

High School Record of Education & Activities

Do not repeat this section if you are a Renewal Applicant.

New Applicants MUST provide an Official High School Transcript

High School Name and Address (City & State only)	Attendance	Graduation Year	Student Activities <i>You may attach a School Activity Sheet.</i>
	9 th 10 th 11 th 12 th		
	9 th 10 th 11 th 12 th		
	9 th 10 th 11 th 12 th		

Institution(s) of Higher Learning Record of Education & Activities

List most recent first.

College Name and Address (City & State only)	Units Completed	Dates Attended	Cumulative GPA	School/Service Club Activities

Graduation Date (actual or expected) from Undergraduate Studies:

Bachelor of:

Major:

Graduation Date (actual or expected) from Graduate Studies:

Masters of:

Major:

Graduation Date (actual or expected) from Doctrine/Other Program(s):

Doctor of:

Major/Program:

Desired College(s) Applying or Applied

Rank in order of preference (list first choice first)

Institution or School Name and Address (City & State only)	System		Have You Applied?		Acceptance Received?	
	Semester	Quarter	Yes	No	Yes	No

Plans and Goals

Educational Goal(s) – List your major or the degree(s) you wish to obtain (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Professional Career – List your professional career goals and ambitions for the future (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Community Service, Service Clubs and Volunteer Activities

List community service, service club activities and volunteer activities. Include dates and approximate hours per week (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Applicant's Employment/Internship Record (STUDENT)

The last 3 years of work experience/internship, please include work with family business and volunteer.

Employer Name and Address (City & State only) List most recent first	From Mo./Yr.	To Mo./Yr.	Approx. Hrs Per Week	Pay Per Hour	Approximate Total Earnings Per Month
Employer Name and Address (City & State only) Future: (while in school)	From Mo./Yr.	To Mo./Yr.	Approx. Hrs Per Week	Pay Per Hour	Anticipated Earnings Per Month

References *(list three)*

List persons, other than family, that can support information in your application. References do not have to be restricted to school officials.

Name, Title, Business/Organization	Address (City & State only)	Telephone Number

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Spouse's Information

Applicant's Parents/Guardians/Spouse.

Father's Name:	Telephone Number:	Occupation:
Mother's Name:	Telephone Number:	Occupation:
Spouse's Name:	Telephone Number:	Occupation:

Supporting Party Information

"Supporting Party" refers to the person or persons who assist you in affording to go to school. This is typically your parent(s)/guardian(s) or your spouse, if married.
Do not include applicant.

Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant

Supporting Party's Dependents Currently Pursuing Post-Secondary Education

"Supporting Party" refers to the person or persons who assist you in affording to go to school. This is typically your parent(s)/guardian(s) or your spouse, if married.
Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Name	Age	Post-secondary Education?		Name & Location of Institution (City and State only)
		Yes	No	
		Yes	No	
		Yes	No	
		Yes	No	

Financial Information of Supporting Party

"Supporting Party" refers to the person or persons who assist you in affording to go to school. This is typically your parent(s)/guardian(s) or your spouse, if married.
Dependent Applicant = Either parents/guardians or spouse. **Independent Applicant** = Self-supported.

Assets: \$	Liabilities: \$
Real Estate: \$	Real Estate Mortgage: \$
Securities: \$	Loans: \$
Cash: \$	Other Obligations: \$
Other: \$	Misc.: \$
Total: \$	Total: \$

Employer Information for Supporting Party

"Supporting Party" refers to the person or persons who assist you in affording to go to school. This is typically your parent(s)/guardian(s) or your spouse, if married.
Include the last 3 years, most recent first. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Employer Name & Address (City & State only)	From	To	Telephone Number

Estimated Financial Need. How Will you Pay for School?

Please list anticipated expenses at school of first choice. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Where Will you be Living?		Expenses	Amount
At Home	On Campus	Total Cost: List anticipated amount you will need for the year. Include the cost of tuition and expenses such as books, transportation, and housing.	
Off Campus	Relatives		
How will you pay for school? (Attach a separate sheet if necessary) List grants, scholarships and all other financial assistance including employment, gifts, and parental/guardian assistance.			
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
Net Amount Needed for School: Calculate the new amount you will need by subtracting your funding from the total cost.			

Expected Changes in the 2023-24 School Year

Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

List approximate month and year, then briefly explain expected change (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Unusual Circumstances (If Any)

Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Explain any unusual circumstances not previously mentioned in the application (attach additional sheets if necessary).

The Virginia Smith Trust does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to scholarships. The Merced County Superintendent of Schools, 632 West 13th Street, Merced CA, (209) 381-6601 has been designated to manage inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policy.

By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this scholarship application is a statement of fact.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spouse's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supporting Party's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supporting Party's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Virginia Smith Trust Scholarship
Application Checklist
2023 - 2024**

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Completed application AND all supporting documents must be received in the Trust Office by the deadline.
NO EXCEPTIONS.

NEW APPLICANTS - Final Checklist, Have You:

- Filled in all questions that did not apply with “n/a”
- Included **official** high school transcript (sealed in envelope by high school)
- Included **official** transcripts from **ALL** colleges attended
- Included a copy of your Expected Family Contributions (EFC) determined by FAFSA/Dream Act Application (only the page that has your EFC # on it is needed)
- Listed all colleges attended
- Listed all scholarships, grants, income and/or financial assistance on page 5 of the scholarship application
- Included a signed letter of introduction
- Included a minimum of 2 current signed letters of recommendation (written within six months of application deadline)
- Signed application and obtained signatures of all other parties

RENEWAL APPLICANTS - Final Checklist, Have You:

- Included most current **official** transcripts
- Included a copy of your Expected Family Contribution as determined by FAFSA/Dream Act Application
- Listed all scholarships, grants, income and/or financial assistance on page 5 of the scholarship application
- Included a signed letter of introduction
- Included 2 – 3 signed letters of recommendation (optional)
- Signed application and obtained signatures of all other parties

Submit completed application and supporting documents to:

Yolanda Campos
Smith Family Scholarships Office
Merced County Office of Education
632 West 13th Street Room C1
Merced CA 95341

Email: VirginiaSmith@mcoe.org Phone: (209) 381-6604 Fax: (209) 381-6767

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
Virginia Smith Trust Scholarship

VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Virginia Smith Trust Scholarship Trust and its officers value diversity. Virginia Smith Scholarship applicants are invited to participate in voluntary self-identification by reporting your status in the following categories.

In extending this invitation you are also advised that you are under no obligation to respond; responses will remain confidential and will be separated from your scholarship application upon receipt. Not providing this information will have no bearing on your application and will not subject you to any adverse treatment or consideration.

The information requested will be used to ensure that the Virginia Smith Scholarship Trust issues scholarships in a non-discriminatory manner in compliance with its non-discrimination policies.

Thank you for your participation!

Gender: Male Female Decline to state

Race: *(check one)*

- White** *(not of Hispanic origin)* – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- Black** *(not of Hispanic origin)* – All persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- Hispanic** – All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- American Indian/Alaskan Native** – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- Asian/Pacific Islander** – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.
- Mixed Race** – All persons who primarily identify with two or more of the above race/ethnicity categories.
- Decline to state**

Military Status: *(choose all that apply)*

- Disabled Veteran**
- Recently Separated Veteran**
- Active Duty Wartime or Campaign Badge**
- Armed Forces Service Medal Veteran**
- I am a protected Veteran but do not want to identify the classification in which I belong.**
- I am not a protected Veteran**
- I am NOT a Veteran**

Military Discharge Date: _____