

SUGGESTED TIMELINE FOR SPONSORING CHAPTERS

- Fall through November: Local SCEF committee interviews and selects no more than two (2) candidates to be approved by the local chapter.
- December Chapter meeting: Chapter votes to sponsor applicants for SCEF.
- December to February: Local chapter assists the applicants in completion of the application packet.
- By February 28th: Local chapter mails the application materials to the SCEF chair.
- February 28th is the postmark deadline for completed application packets.
- Please note that applications will not be considered for SCEF awards if received after March 11th.

CONTACT US

2025-2026 Chair
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SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATIONAL FUND



A PROJECT OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
CHAPTER

WWW.SOUTHCAROLINAPEO.ORG

What is SCEF?

The South Carolina Educational Fund (SCEF) is a scholarship for SC women attending Cottey College or a S.C. college or university. There are four awards:

a. Jean G Steppe Award to be given to SC residents who have accepted admission to Cottey College, are pursuing a four-year Bachelor's Degree and are in their Freshman or Sophomore year at Cottey.

b. Louise B. Eargle Award given to SC residents who are Cottey students, are within two years of graduation and in their Junior or Senior year.

c. The SCEF may offer one or more scholarships called the P.E.O. Palmetto Grants to students who are attending a college or university in South Carolina accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools who are in their first or second year.

d. The Mollie Lahrman Bird Legacy Scholarship may be given to one recipient each year who is enrolled in an undergraduate degree at a university or college located in South Carolina. This recipient must be an active P.E.O., or a daughter, granddaughter or niece of an active P.E.O.

Where to start:

Obtain updated copies of the SCEF application packet on the State website:
www.southcarolinapeo.org.
You will need to log in and look under the Project tab.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much is the scholarship?

The amount of the scholarship is dependent upon the funds available in any given year and the number of qualified applicants. Recipients are not all granted the same amount of money; the size of scholarship is determined by the committee.

How many students are granted an SCEF scholarship each year?

There is no fixed number of scholarships available. Applicants are evaluated based on the merits of their application packets and available funds are disbursed based on judgment of the committee following a South Carolina Executive Board-approved guideline.

What can the scholarship be used for?

The scholarship can be used for any post-secondary educational expenditures that are debited from the recipient's student account. If the money, however, is used for transportation, housing, room and board or similar expenses, there could be tax implications. To avoid income tax being required on the scholarship, the money should be used for tuition, books and fees, or other supplies directly related to coursework leading to her degree.