

**P.E.O. Chapter AP – Winona, MN**  
**Susan Cooper Educational Scholarship**

**DESCRIPTION & CRITERIA**

**Deadline: 8:00 AM on Monday, December 18, 2023**

**Background:**

The Susan Cooper Educational Scholarship (SCES) honors the legacy of Susan Elizabeth Cooper, an exemplary student and distinguished career professional, who lived and served in Winona County for over 35 years. Susan graduated as valedictorian of her high school, earned a nursing degree, and worked in oncology, and later graduated at the top of her class from William Mitchell Law School. Susan excelled as the Assistant Winona County Attorney for many years. Through the generosity of her brother, Steven Cooper, an endowed scholarship was established in 2023 with P.E.O. Chapter AP - Winona to provide postsecondary scholarships for deserving women graduating from high school in Winona County, Minnesota.

**What:**

Non-renewable \$2,000 scholarship for an exceptional high school graduating woman, who is a current resident of Winona County, Minnesota, and plans to attend an accredited U.S. or Canadian postsecondary educational institution in the next academic year.

**Criteria:**

- Exhibits excellence in leadership, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service, and potential for future success
- Minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- In the final academic year of secondary education
- Plans to attend an accredited U.S. or Canadian postsecondary institution, full time in the fall of the academic year after graduation
- Current resident of Winona County, Minnesota
- U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident
- Is recommended by and receives the majority affirmative vote of Chapter AP - Winona.
- The applications of individuals who satisfy these eligibility criteria will be evaluated on a nondiscriminatory basis without consideration of race, age, national origin, religious affiliation, disability, or P.E.O. connection.

**Contract:**

- Confirmation of enrollment at the postsecondary institution is required.
- Chapter AP will be informed of any circumstances preventing acceptance of the SCES award or that interfere with continuing educational progress.
- Funds will be paid directly to the accredited educational institution.

**Application Requirements:**

- Application form
- Essay that reflects the applicant's higher education goals and career aspirations
- Three letters of reference from non-family members including at least one reference from the high school
- Unofficial high school transcript through 11<sup>th</sup> grade (junior year)

**Application Deadline:**

All application materials must be received by 8:00 AM on Monday, December 18, 2023, for the application to be considered. Send application materials to:  
[winonapeo28@gmail.com](mailto:winonapeo28@gmail.com).



**Susan Cooper Educational Scholarship Application**  
**P.E.O. Chapter AP – Winona**  
**DEADLINE: 8:00 AM on Monday, December 18, 2023**

First Name:

Middle initial:

Last Name:

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City:

County:

State:

Zip/Postal Code:

Email (Please use a personal email address. Do not use a school email address. You must be able to access this email address after you have graduated.):

Phone number:

Are you a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident of the U.S.?

Name of High School. If Home School, indicate "Home":

Cumulative Unweighted Grade Point Average (GPA):

What is your class ranking, if available:

Expected Date of Graduation:

Postsecondary institution that you plan to attend in Fall 2024:

Have you been admitted?

Do you plan to attend full-time in the 2024-25 academic year?

Please describe the major or career path that best describes your intended field of collegiate study. (If you are undecided currently, please state “Undecided”. This will not affect your application status.):

### **SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND/OR EMPLOYMENT**

Consider the activities in which you have been involved in your high school years. Describe whether these are:

- School-sponsored activities such as student council, band, and sports;
- Community and volunteer service such as serving meals at a homeless shelter or church activities;
- Paid or unpaid employment. Examples of unpaid employment: Helping with a family business or providing childcare for younger siblings so that a parent can work.

Please do NOT use abbreviations for your activities. Select up to 7 activities that best represent your talents and/or interests.

<b>Name of Activity</b>	<b>Brief Description/Highlights</b>	<b>Years involved</b>	<b>Leadership positions, if any</b>

## **AWARDS, HONORS, RECOGNITIONS, AND EXPERIENCES**

Choose up to 3 items of which you are most proud. Suggestions include high school or community awards, internships, conferences, cultural trips, and foreign exchange opportunities. Please do NOT use abbreviations. Enter NA (Not Applicable) into the required fields if you have nothing to include for Awards, Honors, Recognitions, and Experiences.

<b>Name of Award/Honor/Recognition</b>	<b>Awarded by</b>	<b>Brief description/highlight</b>	<b>Year Awarded</b>

## **APPLICANT ESSAY (500 words or less)**

Briefly describe your higher education goals and career aspirations. Is there an individual or an experience that has influenced your life? There is no need to reiterate the information on this application, but you may wish to elaborate on an activity or experience that helped shape who you are or influenced your projected career path.



## LETTERS OF REFERENCE

You are required to obtain three (3) letters of reference from non-family members including at least one reference from the high school. Letters of reference should be sent directly to [winonapeo28@gmail.com](mailto:winonapeo28@gmail.com) and must be submitted electronically by the application deadline date.

**Please ask your references to respond to the following questions. (500 words maximum)**

1. In what capacity and for how long have you known this student?
2. Describe her strengths and challenges based on your personal observations. How has she made a positive impact on her school and/or community?
3. Specify qualities of character and skill sets that you believe will carry her successfully into the future.

## TRANSCRIPTS

Please include a copy of your unofficial high school transcript along with this application. Send transcript to: [winonapeo28@gmail.com](mailto:winonapeo28@gmail.com)

**ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8:00 AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023, IN ORDER FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED. SEND APPLICATION MATERIALS TO: [winonapeo28@gmail.com](mailto:winonapeo28@gmail.com).**

## PERMISSIONS

By submitting this application, I verify my information and give my permission to P.E.O. Chapter AP – Winona to use my name, photo, and general information for publicity if I should be awarded this scholarship.

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Applicant signature

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Date