

Mel Sparkman Memorial Scholarship Fund Mission

The Mel Sparkman Memorial Scholarship Fund was created March 1, 2002 to assist deserving students through the award of a general scholarship grant in memory of long-standing church member, Mel Sparkman.

Fund Guidelines

All contributions into the fund will be considered protected principal and cannot be used unless specifically directed by his immediate family. Income and asset appreciation generated by the fund will be used to provide annual scholarships. Investment of fund assets will be at the discretion of the board of directors of the Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church Charitable Foundation in line with the investment objectives of the family.

Scholarship Guidelines

It is the goal of the fund to provide at least two one-time scholarships annually through an application and selection process. The first scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior who is a member of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church; the second scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior regardless of church affiliation. It is the family's desire that the minimum scholarship awarded be \$1,000.

Scholarship Criteria

The criteria by which the recipients are chosen will be based on their overall achievement. Demonstration of the recipient's service to others in the community and beyond through mission work and other activities will be a key consideration. The ability to balance service with strong academic achievement will be the final criteria for award.

Scholarship Application and Selection Process

Scholarship applications must be completed and turned in to the Vestavia Hills United Methodist Student Ministries Floor office by **April 15, 2019**. The board of directors for the Foundation will review each application. They may request the applicant attend a board meeting for a personal interview. The board will make a recommendation to the family as to which applicants should be awarded the scholarships. The recipients of the scholarships will be announced in May at the VHUMC Senior Sunday program.

This year, it will be May 19th at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

The family wants the scholarship program to serve as a perpetual gift for deserving students. From time to time there might be decisions that need to be made when the family is not available for consultation. In that case the board of directors of Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church Charitable Foundation shall have authority to make an appropriate decision and take action that is consistent with, and in the best interest of, the fund.

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Grant Application

Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ **Sex:** _____

Address: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Number:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

It is the goal of the Mel Sparkman Memorial Scholarship Fund to award scholarship(s) to the most deserving student(s). Please submit this form with a typed double-spaced essay (no more than 4 pages) covering the following topics in the order that they are listed below:

Personal information (General information covering the last 4 years on family, residence, school, etc.)

Academic Achievement (Specific information regarding grades. Include copy of High School transcript.)

Extracurricular Activities at School (Class Officer, Clubs, Fine Arts, Sports, etc.)

Extracurricular Activities in the Community (Church, Community Service, Mission Trips, Dance, Scouts, etc.)

College Attending / Area of Study (Tell us your college plans)

Why are you applying for this scholarship? (Summarize why you want to be considered for this scholarship.)

Please return this form to the Student Ministries Office by **April 15, 2019**.