

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION



ALABAMA RURAL
WATER ASSOCIATION

JOHN A. GARRETT

SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2026

Scholarship Application Package

Completed application should be returned to:
ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
2576 BELL ROAD
MONTGOMERY, AL 36117

*Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered in
the application process.*



TO: **Alabama Public Water and Wastewater Utilities**

FROM: **Robert White, IV, Executive Director**

DATE: **February 1, 2026**

SUBJECT: **John A. Garrett Scholarship**

The Alabama Rural Water Association offers educational scholarships annually to deserving individuals through the John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund. Six scholarships will be offered to individuals who meet the criteria described within. Two recipients will be selected from each of three regions North, Central and South, as shown on the Alabama Map enclosed in the amount of \$750 per recipient.

We ask that you provide each of your employees who may be interested or have children who are interested a copy of this package. Where more than one child in a family or more than one employee in a utility is interested, each is eligible to apply. The application must be completed in its entirety and the utility must be a current member of the Alabama Rural Water Association.

To insure continued growth in the number of certified water and wastewater operators in the State of Alabama, three of the six scholarships will be offered to individuals striving to enhance their professionalism by attending Alabama Water or Wastewater Operator Certification Courses for Grades I-IV certification examination preparation. This is offered to expand the educational opportunities of those individuals interested in water and wastewater industry careers. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Please note the application package must be postmarked no later than Saturday, March 31, 2026. Any package received with a later postmark will not be considered. If you have any questions, please call the ARWA office at (334) 396-5511.

2576 BELL ROAD • MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36117
334.396.5511 e-mail: arwa@alruralwater.com Fax 334.396.7090
Visit our website at www.alruralwater.com

DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RURAL ALABAMIANS



2576 Bell Road | Montgomery, AL 36117



JOHN A. GARRETT

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2026 - 2027

This application must be completed in its entirety and postmarked no later than March 31, 2026. Any package received with a later postmark will not be considered.

PERSONAL DATA

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)
Address _____ County _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____
SS# _____ Telephone _____
Applicant Applying For: _____ Northern Region _____ Central Region _____ Southern Region
PLEASE REFER TO THE REGIONAL MAP REFERENCING THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE UTILITY IS LOCATED.

*ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATION/UTILITY DATA

Employee Name _____ Job Title _____
Association/Utility _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ County _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____
Relationship to Applicant _____
Date of employment with current employer _____
***UTILITY MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE ARWA FOR ELIGIBILITY.**

HIGH SCHOOL DATA

School Name _____ Graduation Date _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____ School Telephone _____
City _____ State _____
Your class rank _____ Number of students in class _____
Your grade point average _____ (Transcript must be submitted with application.)
ACT score if available _____ (Attach copy of ACT score)

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY DATA - Complete only if you are applying for higher education scholarships

Is this your first year of higher education? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If "no," college transcript is required.)
If "no," indicate credit hours completed _____
Number of credit hours required to graduate _____
College grade point average _____
College Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Please indicate: ☐ 4-Year College/University ☐ 2-Year Community/Junior College ☐ Vocational Technical School ☐ Graduate School
Major course of study _____

(Priority will be given, but not limited to, water-related studies)

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION – Complete only if you are seeking an ARWA Water or Wastewater Certification Course scholarship for tuition and manuals up to \$750.

Seeking Water:

GRADE I _____
II _____
III _____
IV _____

Seeking Wastewater:

GRADE I _____
II _____
III _____
IV _____

If selected for this scholarship, I agree to register and participate in the ARWA Operator Certification Course Grade I – IV identified by the ARWA and located in closest proximity to my location. I understand that I must attend at least 75% of the ARWA Certification Course for the Scholarship to be awarded.

Applicant Signature

- PLEASE ATTACH A LIST OF ALL SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR, CHURCH, COMMUNITY OR CIVIC WORK AND/OR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES THAT YOU DESIRE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN YOUR APPLICATION.
- PLEASE ATTACH THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. NO LETTERS FROM RELATIVES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- APPLICANT SHOULD ATTACH A WALLET SIZE PHOTO FOR INCLUSION OF NEWS RELEASES.

IN SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, WE CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. FALSE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
(Student, Utility Employee or Other)

Parent\Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent\Guardian signature must be the signature of the utility or association employee)

Mail all required material to:

ARWA
2576 Bell Road
Montgomery, AL 36117
334-396-5511

APPLICATION PACKAGE FOR SCHOLARSHIP PARTICIPATION

JOHN A. GARRETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The application (and all attachments thereto) must be signed, completed and all requirements of the package must be completed and submitted to the Alabama Rural Water Association Scholarship Fund 2576 Bell Road, Montgomery, AL 36117. If an applicant fails to complete the entire application or fails to submit all of the items in the format requested by the deadline date, the application will not be considered for any purpose or under any circumstance with respect to the scholarships of the Program.

Please note that for student applications, both the student applying for the scholarship and the parent/guardian of the student must sign the application and, if either of such signatures is not on the application, the application will be considered incomplete, and not considered in the application process. For adults applying, only the signature of the employee is required.

The application with all required submissions must be postmarked no later than **March 31, 2026**. Any package received with a later postmark will not be considered.

The John A. Garrett Scholarship Program does not, and will not discriminate, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion or national origin or on any other basis in either the application process or in the consideration and granting of the scholarships provided. The regions established by the ARWA are based upon a balanced number of counties in which its utility members who created the program are located. As a result, the scholarship for which you are applying is based upon the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of the State. A map showing the regions established is attached to this application package.

By submitting the application package and submissions relating to the application, the applicant and his or her parent/guardian signing the application are certifying that the information submitted is true and correct and the applicant and his or her parent/guardian are agreeing to the scholarship conditions set forth below.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions, on which the scholarships are to be made for the 2026-2027 scholarship year, are as follows:

1. Three scholarships shall be transmitted to the accredited school selected by the scholarship recipient. For three regions representing North, Central, and South Alabama there will be one scholarship awarded per region in the amount of \$750 each.
2. Three scholarships shall be awarded to individuals qualified and selected to attend State of Alabama Water/Wastewater Operator Certification School of the ARWA for Grades I – IV. For three regions representing North, Central and South Alabama there will be one scholarship awarded per region for cost of tuition, manuals and examination fees not to exceed \$750 each.
3. The scholarship shall be granted to:
 - High School Graduates of employees with at least two years of employment with an ARWA member water or wastewater utility. Undergraduate students are also eligible
 - Employees with at least two years of employment with an ARWA member water or wastewater utility
 - Children (high school graduates) of ARWA Board Members or Staff
 - ARWA Staff
 - ARWA Board of Directors
4. The three higher education scholarships shall be announced and awarded prior to May 31st of each year, but are contingent and subject to the scholarship recipient graduating from high school and passing any required graduation exam. Undergraduate applicants must be enrolled as a full time student and in good standing, meeting necessary institution GPA.
5. Three ARWA Operator Certification Course scholarships will be awarded to qualifying individuals prior to May 31st of each year, but are contingent and subject to the scholarship recipient meeting the employment requirements with an ARWA Member utility. Individuals must register to attend the ARWA Operator Certification Course for the Grade level choice of I – IV and attend 75% of the instructional classes for tuition to be paid. If the student fails to attend class or participate less than 75% for any reason other than documented medical reason, the scholarship will be withdrawn and returned to the ARWA John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund.

6. The scholarship shall not be renewable and, to the extent of the amount awarded, will be only for the one-year term.
7. The scholarship will be paid by the Scholarship Fund directly to the educational institution and to ARWA Operator Certification Program for credit to the students account at the institution with notification of receipt to be received from the educational institution.
8. In order for the scholarship fund to be received for the benefit of the scholarship recipient, the student must enroll for a minimum of 12 semester hours at the institution selected, which full-time status must be certified by the institution or register for full time Certification Course participation through the ARWA. Failure to qualify for the minimum hours will result in a rescission of the scholarship with the funds being returned from the institution to the ARWA John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund. There are no exceptions to this rule, and except as determined by the Scholarship Board on a nondiscriminatory basis, there will be no deferral of enrollment.
9. Eligible applicant scholarships will not be awarded solely based upon need, nor will need be a predominate basis upon which any determination is made. Leadership ability will also be a determining factor.
10. **The deadline for confirming a student's qualifying enrollment will be the last day of September in the year the award is won. Winners who fail to confirm qualifying enrollment will automatically forfeit their award and the award will be offered to a runner-up previously selected by the selection committee.**

Scholarship Application — 2026

Initial: _____ (Applicant)

Initial: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

RELEASE OF INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We, the undersigned individuals, the applicant and a parent/guardian of the applicant, by signing below authorize the release of any and all academic information from _____ (Name of High School) and do hereby authorize the guidance counselor and principal of such high school to discuss such information with the ARWA John A. Garrett Scholarship Committee Members. We, the undersigned, by signing below authorize the release of any and all test scores and other information from the American College of Testing or the Stanford Achievement Test to the ARWA.

Signature of Applicant

Date: _____

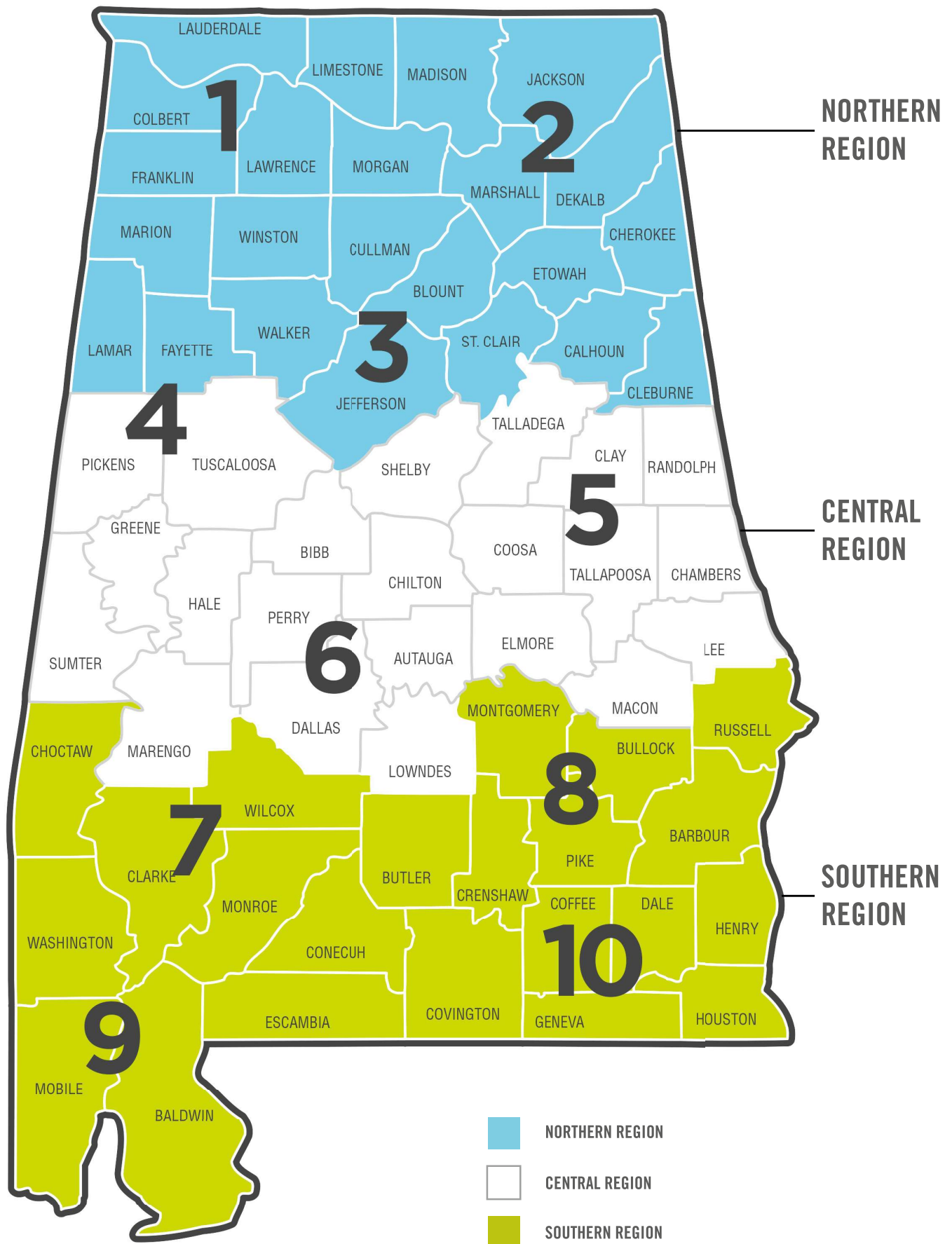
Signature of Parent\Guardian required if application
is being processed for an individual under the age of 21.

Date: _____

This form must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2026. Any package received with a later postmark will not be considered.

ARWA
2576 Bell Road
Montgomery, AL 36117

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Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life for Rural Alabamians