



GEORGIA MINING FOUNDATION 2026 CLIFF SHEPPARD ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

The Endowment for Education Program was created to raise funds for grants and scholarships; however, to be differentiated from the GMF Scholarship Program that provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors, the Endowment scholarships are intended for a four-year course study at the undergraduate level. The Endowment Program will serve to “nurture a student into the mining industry” by enhancing the student’s education not only with financial assistance, but also with direct contact with the Georgia Mining Association and its members throughout the student’s entire education. High school seniors attending schools throughout the state of Georgia are eligible to apply.

In March 2026, GMF will award a four-year scholarship, which will pay \$1,000 per year for four years. The scholarship awarded for year 2026 will be given in honor and recognition of a person whose dedication and commitment to the mining and mineral industry is virtually unsurpassed: Cliff Sheppard, Howard Sheppard, Inc.

The following criteria are used in the decision-making process to determine the scholarship winners.

The applicant must:

1. have been accepted for admission and plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology, Mercer University, Kennesaw State University, University of Georgia, or Georgia Southern University (a copy of the acceptance letter must be attached);
2. attain a minimum score of 960 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (this includes Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math); or attain a minimum score of 18 on the American College Testing (this includes English, Math, Reading Comprehension and Science);
3. be in good academic standing;
4. receive a faculty recommendation (teacher or counselor) and approval from the principal or head master of the school. The recommendation (maximum one page) should address the following personal qualities: integrity, written/oral expression, extra-curricular activities, personality, motivation, initiative, leadership and community involvement;
5. answer three of eight questions (see attachment). Each essay must not exceed one page in length per question and must be typed; and
6. provide a copy of high school transcript.
7. submit a completed application packet containing physical copies of all the applicable documents listed above (electronic copies will not be accepted), mailed to:
Georgia Mining Foundation, 113 Arkwright Landing, Macon, GA 31210

Deadline for the Completed Application Packet (Physical Copies of the following: Application, Letter of Recommendation, Essay Questions, and Transcript) must be POSTMARKED No Later than January 30, 2026.

The Georgia Mining Association is comprised of over 30 mining and mineral producers who have operations in 133 counties in Georgia. The Association also includes more than 100 other companies that provide the mining industry with products and services. These companies have a significant impact on Georgia with more than 13,000 persons directly employed in the companies’ operations.



**GEORGIA MINING FOUNDATION
2026 CLIFF SHEPPARD ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP
ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Please select three of the following eight questions and write a short essay on each. The essay must not exceed one page in length per question and must be typed.

1. Why are minerals important in everyday life?
2. What is your perception of the correlation between a safe environment and the minerals industry?
3. Should the United States harvest its own minerals or import them?
4. What do you think is our greatest freedom?
5. How can the minerals industry improve the public's image regarding a safe environment?
6. What renewable resources (solar, biomass, etc.) can be used to replace nonrenewable minerals?
7. Do you believe the current state of the world is in an ecological crisis? If so, what is your perception of this crisis and what solutions would you offer?
8. What ideas from your intended field of study could improve the minerals industry?



GEORGIA MINING FOUNDATION 2026 CLIFF SHEPPARD ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please print or type all information)

Student's Name _____			
Permanent Mailing Address _____			
Telephone _____	Street _____	City, State, Zip _____	U.S. Citizen? Y N
Optional Information:	Age: _____	Sex: _____	
Parents or Guardian _____			
Occupation of Mother _____		Occupation of Father _____	

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name _____	Phone _____	County _____
Address _____		
Name of Counselor & Email _____	Combined SAT or ACT Score _____	
Principal's Name _____	Graduation Date _____	Honor's Day _____

COLLEGE INFORMATION

By which college or university in Georgia have you been accepted? (Please circle all that apply)

Mercer University	Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Georgia
Kennesaw State University	Georgia Southern University	

Approximate Enrollment Date (indicate one: Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring, Year) _____

College Major or Program of Study (i.e. Business, Science, Education, etc.) _____

List all other non-repayable grants and scholarships with anticipated award amounts that you will be receiving (such as 4-H Club - \$500, IBM - \$1,000, etc.) _____

STUDENT CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT

I certify that the information reported above and any other document or writing in connection with this application for a Georgia Mining Foundation Scholarship is or will be true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the release and exchange of information between the Georgia Mining Foundation and educational institutions, state and federal agencies, and private lending institutions from which student financial assistance is sought or obtained by me and agree that such information exchanged may include financial, enrollment, academic status and location necessary to ensure proper administration of student aid.

Student's Signature _____	Date _____	ATTACHMENTS ENCLOSED? Recommendation Y / N Student Essay Y / N School Transcript Y / N Acceptance Letter(s) Y / N
Teacher/Counselor's Signature _____	Date _____	
Principal or Headmaster's Signature _____	Date _____	

Mail To:
Georgia Mining Foundation
113 Arkwright Landing
Macon, GA 31210
Deadline: JANUARY 30, 2026

Applicants not selected to receive the four-year scholarship will automatically be reviewed for a \$500 GMF scholarship