



Savannah River Section of the American Nuclear Society
P.O. Box 7001
Aiken, South Carolina 29804
January 20, 2020

Dear CSRA High School Seniors and Technical College Students, Parents, Principals, Administrator/Guidance Counselors, Science Educators:

Availability of American Nuclear Society (ANS) Savannah River Section Scholarship for the 2020-2021 Academic Year – Applications Due April 17, 2020

The American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section (ANS-SR) is once again offering one-year scholarships to qualifying current high school seniors and technical school students in the memory of its long-time member, Dr. Richard (Dick) Benjamin. The seventh year of the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship is a competitive \$2,000 award process for academic study in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for the upcoming 2019-2020 academic year. This letter contains application information for the scholarship. Please feel free to circulate the information to qualified student candidates and parents of student candidates who are interested in pursuing careers in STEM, particularly those wishing to major in one of the many fields associated with nuclear science, engineering, and technology.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the Scholarship Committee will award at least one scholarship to a technical college student and at least one scholarship to a four-year college program student. The actual number of scholarships and commendation awards will be determined by the number and quality of the pool of applicants. Commendation awards are lesser financial awards given to applicants that were recognized highly in the evaluation process. Note that the Scholarship can be applied to either year of a technical college curriculum, and to the first-year of a four-year college program.

Dr. Benjamin was a nuclear physicist who contributed to the atmospheric sciences, accelerator programs, and fuel cycle and waste management technologies, and other technical areas for several decades in a distinguished career that began in 1968 at the Savannah River Laboratory (now the Savannah River National Laboratory). He mentored countless new professionals in the nuclear science and technology areas, and was a strong proponent of ANS at the Aiken-Augusta area (local), national, and international levels. The Scholarship is named in his memory, and it is awarded by the Savannah River Section of ANS on an annual basis.

Applicants for this scholarship should be current high school seniors or first-year technical school students who are currently attending school in one of the counties in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).¹ The intent of the scholarship is that it be applied to the first-year college costs of a four-year college or university towards a STEM major, or any year of a two-year technical college program related to nuclear science and technology.

¹

The CSRA is defined as the following counties in South Carolina (Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, and McCormick) and Georgia (Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Washington, and Wilkes).

The following application materials are required:

1. Cover letter including the student's name, address, evening phone number, current school, and email address;
2. An essay of no more than 300 words on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and particularly those in the fields of nuclear science, engineering and technology, is the goal of the student;
3. High school transcripts (seven semesters in the case of current seniors); plus first-semester transcripts for applicants who are current technical college students;
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation from education institution or community organization individuals (e.g., teachers, coaches, service or religious organization, etc.); and,
5. Name of college or technical school to which the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship would be applied.

Please note that the evaluation criteria are weighted as follows: (a) Essay (40%); (b) Transcripts (20%); and (c) Letters of Recommendation (two letters, each weighted 20%, or 40% total).

Applications must be received no later than April 17, 2020 and can be sent either by:

- Email: ans.savannahriver@gmail.com, and enter "Benjamin Memorial Scholarship" in the subject line and include required information as attachments;
- or,
- U.S. mail:
Benjamin Memorial Scholarship, ANS Savannah River Section,
P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804.

Include all required attachments. Recommendation letters and school transcripts may be sent separately.

The ANS Savannah River Section Scholarship Selection Committee will inform winners by May 2020. Scholarship award payments will be made to scholarship recipients, prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Payments are intended for the scholar's educational material (e.g., books, laptop computer), tuition and fees, or living expenses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the ANS Savannah River address shown below.

Best regards,



Kevin O'Kula
2020-2021 ANS Savannah River Section Scholarship Committee Chair
ans.savannahriver@gmail.com