



The Connell F. Smith Homer Brown Scholarship

The Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship Award is presented to college students whose parents, grandparents, spouse, or who themselves are members in good standing with Laborers' Local 773.

This scholarship is given in honor of the late Local 773 Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer Connell F. Smith, whose vision and leadership guides Local 773 today in organizing, political activism, and service to the membership. The award also honors the late Homer Brown, who was a Local 773 Laborer in Cairo, Illinois during the Great Depression. Despite his hardships, he made certain his six children obtained their college degrees to lead productive and successful lives.

Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student for both Fall and Spring semesters at an accredited university, college, or vocational school and must maintain at least a 2.6 cumulative GPA during the entire previous year to be considered for the award. Proof of qualifying GPA must be in its official form.

Applicants must have all forms, documents, and essays postmarked no later than March 31, 2026 in order to be considered for the award. All documentation must be complete and comprehensive. Partial or incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible. Applications will not be accepted after the March 31, 2026 deadline.

Mailing Address:
Laborers' Local 773
Attn: Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship Committee
5102 Ed Smith Way
Marion, Illinois 62959

Applications and interviews will be reviewed by the committee, and eligibility will be conditional upon the submission of Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 class schedules. The Fall 2026 schedule must be received by July 31, 2026. The Spring 2026 schedule must be received with the application (excluding high school applicants or those applying for the first time).

Applicants must reapply each year and supply all documentation in order to become eligible or maintain eligibility. Year-to-year eligibility is contingent upon meeting all requirements based on

Fall–Spring enrollment, application submission, cumulative GPA, essay, volunteer day participation, and transcripts. Recipients who qualify may receive the award for up to four years, consecutive or non-consecutive.

Recipients must contribute at least one day of volunteer work for Laborers' Local 773 during each qualifying year, beginning in April 2026. This volunteer day must be completed before March 2027 in order to reapply. Any applicant who does not participate in a union volunteer day will be omitted from eligibility. First-time applicants will complete a volunteer day during year one and continue to contribute each year of eligibility.

Laborers' Local 773 partners with Heaven's Kitchen in Harrisburg, the Fowler Bonan Foundation, and the Special Olympics of Southern Illinois to offer assistance with events and activities. You may reach out to these organizations to arrange your day of service:

Fowler Bonan Foundation – Amy Oxford – 618-926-3062 (Meals served every Tuesday evening at Harrisburg Heaven's Kitchen)

Special Olympics of Southern Illinois – Britney Fuqua – 618-363-2799

A letter of completion from the organization must be submitted WITH your application.

As part of the requirements, award recipients must attend the 2026 Award Ceremony to receive their certificate of award on Friday, May 22, 2026, at the Kokopelli Golf Club Banquet Room in Marion, Illinois at 2:00 p.m. This ceremony will be in conjunction with the Edward M. Smith Golf Tournament which provides the funding for our scholarship program.

Checklist – All documents must be submitted in full, and applications must be complete in order to be considered for the award.

The application must be completed in full, including phone number, email address, and Social Security number. Incomplete applications will be omitted.

- High school or college transcripts from the previous scholastic year must be included at the time of application. The cumulative GPA for the previous year must be clear and legible on the transcripts. Photos of transcripts or any other form of duplication not originally from the source will not be accepted.
- Proof of admission from an accredited college, including an acceptance letter for first-year applicants and/or class schedule for returning students.
- Full-time students must include their Spring 2026 class schedule. The Fall 2026 class schedule must be submitted before July 31, 2026.
- As part of the Connell F. Smith–Homer Brown Scholarship application, each applicant is

required to complete a Union Member Interview with the Laborers' Local 773 member to whom they are related.

Award Amounts:

\$750 for Community/Junior Colleges

\$1,500 for 4 year University

\$2,000 for Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Applicant Name: _____

All information on this application is required and must be completed in its entirety to be considered eligible.

Have you been a Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship recipient in the past? Yes / No
If yes, what year(s) did you receive the scholarship award? _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number: ____ - ____ - ____ (must complete all nine digits)

Phone Number:

Current Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Email Address:

Are you a registered voter? Yes / No

Last High School Attended: _____

If you will be a high school graduate in Spring 2026, provide the name and email address of your guidance counselor: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Class Rank: _____

SAT Score: _____

College or University Information

Name and address of the college or university you plan to attend:

Your cumulative GPA for the Spring 2025/Fall 2025 school year was: _____

Proof must be provided in the form of official transcripts mailed to:

Laborers' Local 773
5102 Ed Smith Way
Marion, Illinois 62959

Screenshots, photos, or any other form of duplication will be omitted from eligibility.

Address and location of admissions and payment office:

Address: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Year you will be attending:

Freshman (1)

Sophomore (2)

Junior (3)

Senior (4)

Other: _____

Area of Study: _____

Community Involvement _____

List all school and community activities, awards, honors, and special recognition. Attachments may be included. Union volunteer day(s) should be listed if reapplying. Applicants must provide proof and/or a letter from the non-profit organizer.

Laborers' Local 773 Member Information

Name of member to whom you are related: _____

Relationship: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Union Member Interview Requirement

Connell F. Smith–Homer Brown Scholarship
Laborers' Local 773 | Laborers' Rising

Purpose

As part of the Connell F. Smith–Homer Brown Scholarship application, each applicant is required to complete a Union Member Interview with the Laborers' Local 773 member to whom they are related.

This requirement reflects the spirit of Laborers' Rising—building strong member-to-member connections, honoring the experiences of our members, and passing union values from one generation to the next. Through this conversation, applicants gain a deeper understanding of what the union stands for and how union membership shapes lives, families, and communities.

Completion of this requirement is mandatory. Failure to submit the interview will result in omission from eligibility.

Interview Guidelines

- Interview must be conducted in person or by phone/video (video can be sent to Msmith@local773.com)
- Applicants must ask all required questions listed below
- Responses must be written in the applicant's own words
- Submission must be typed, single-spaced, 12-point font or smaller
- Minimum length: 750 words
- Must be submitted with the scholarship application

Required Interview Questions

(Aligned with Laborers' Rising member-to-member conversations)

Applicants must ask the Union member the following questions and reflect on their responses:

1. How did you become a member of Laborers' Local 773, and what led you to join the union?
2. What does being a union member mean to you personally?
3. How has union membership impacted your life or your family?

4. What opportunities or protections has the union provided you?
5. Why do you believe unions—and Laborers' Local 773—remain important today?
6. What values does the union represent, and how do you see those values in action?
7. How has being a union member shaped your views on work, fairness, and solidarity?
8. What message or advice would you pass on to the next generation about unions, education, or service?

Applicant Reflection

In addition to the interview responses, applicants must include a short reflection addressing:

- What you learned about the union that you did not know before
- How this conversation strengthened your understanding of Laborers' Local 773

How union values connect to your educational and career goals

Laborers' Rising is about conversations, connection, and carrying our values forward. This interview honors the voices of our members and ensures those values continue to rise with the next generation.

I authorize the verification of the information provided on this form by Laborers' Local 773 with my current high school, college, and/or university.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Laborers' Local 773 Member: _____ Date: _____

Students who submit an application certify that the information provided is correct to the best of their knowledge. Falsification of information will automatically disqualify a student from receiving any scholarships. Students agree that if awarded a scholarship, the Connell F. Smith-Homer Brown Scholarship may share their name and scholarship information with local media, television, radio, and/or the Laborers' Local 773 website.

Selection is based on personalized interview, community involvement, volunteer experience, and GPA. Applicants meeting the above criteria will be eligible without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. The scholarship committee reserves the right to consider or disqualify an applicant based solely on the information provided in the application