



## Tennessee Department of Tourist Development 2025 Alabama-Mississippi-Tennessee Rural Tourism Conference Scholarship Overview

### ABOUT THE RURAL TOURISM CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP:

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development is pleased to announce that we will provide scholarships to cover **registration fees** for the 2025 Alabama-Mississippi-Tennessee Rural Tourism Conference October 20 – 22, 2025 in Athens, Alabama.

Realizing that budgets are limited, the opportunity to attend the Alabama-Mississippi-Tennessee Rural Tourism Conference provides those working in the **Tennessee tourism industry** a chance to meet annually, attend educational seminars and network with industry partners. For more on the conference visit: <https://www.almstnruraltourism.com/>.

Below is a snapshot of the details for the scholarship:

- Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded, with priority given to applicants from a county designated as distressed or at-risk per the current or previous two FYs Appalachian Regional Commission guidelines
- Scholarships are for the 2025 Alabama-Mississippi-Tennessee Rural Tourism Conference only
- Scholarship award will cover **registration fees** to conference only
- **Please do not register for Rural Tourism Conference prior to applying for this scholarship. TDTD will register scholarship recipients.**
- Scholarship cannot be used toward a match for any grant program

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. You must be employed by a tourism organization / business / Government  
Examples of tourism businesses are:
  - Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, DMO
  - Community development related organizations
  - Attractions
  - Restaurants
  - Museums
  - Lodging
2. You must be able to cover the cost of travel, lodging and meals, etc.

***\*TDTD maintains the discretionary right to create exceptions or additional eligibility regulations on a case-by-case basis.***

#### **THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE APPLYING:**

- Can you or your organization pay for the expenses that would accompany attending the Rural Tourism Conference? (i.e. travel & lodging expenses, etc.)
- How can attending Rural Tourism Conference improve your contribution to Tennessee tourism? How can it benefit both you and/or your organization?

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Please return application via email by **Friday, August 8, 2025** to [Andi.Grindley@tn.gov](mailto:Andi.Grindley@tn.gov)

*If you have any questions about your application, contact [Andi.Grindley@tn.gov](mailto:Andi.Grindley@tn.gov)*

#### **SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATION:**

Rural Tourism Conference scholarships will be awarded by **Friday, August 15, 2025**. You will receive notification of the status of your application via email.

Scholarships awarded are limited to available funds, as well as the number of requests received.

#### **FOLLOW UP REQUIREMENTS:**

By **Friday, November 21, 2025** scholarship awardees will be **required** to send in a follow up letter detailing the Rural Tourism Conference experience and takeaways. Please send the letter to [andi.grindley@tn.gov](mailto:andi.grindley@tn.gov).