

Peer Support Foundation

First Responder Scholarship Guidelines

Purpose: To honor and support the dedication and sacrifices of first responders and their immediate families by providing educational or vocational training scholarships.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be either:
 - A current or former first responder employed by a recognized emergency services agency (police, fire, EMS, paramedics, etc.)
 - An immediate family member (spouse, child/grandchild, parent, sibling) of a current or former first responder
- Applicants must be legal residents of the United States.
- Applicants must be accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, trade school, or vocational training program within the academic year following the scholarship award (August - July).
- Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale (in high school or college).
- Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to personal and professional development.
- Awards are renewable for up to three additional years provided the student maintains a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale in a full-time trade school, undergraduate program, or graduate program.
- If a family member of a board member applies for a scholarship, the board member shall be exempt from voting to select award recipients.

Selection Criteria:

- Personal essay: Applicants will submit a 1000-word essay exploring the following themes:
 - Your connection to the first responder community: Share your personal story and relationship with a first responder. Detail their role and how it has impacted your life.
 - The impact of being a first responder or family member: Discuss the unique challenges and rewards associated with your connection to the first responder community. How has this connection shaped your perspective and goals?

- Educational or vocational goals: Describe your chosen degree or trade program and your aspirations for the future. Explain how this education will contribute to your personal and professional growth as well as your community.
- Request for scholarship: Explain why you deserve this scholarship and how it will significantly impact your ability to pursue your educational or vocational goals.
- Letters of recommendation: Applicants will submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with their character, work ethic, and academic abilities.

Amount of Award:

- Five scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded annually.

Application Process:

- Applications will be accepted during the Spring each year.
- Applications must be submitted online through the foundation's website or by mail to the designated address.
- All application materials must be submitted by August 30th each year to be considered.

Scholarship Use:

- Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, and other approved educational expenses at university, college, trade school, or vocational training programs.
- Funds may not be used for personal expenses unrelated to education.

Award Notification:

- Selected scholarship recipients will be notified by email and/or phone within two weeks of the application deadline.
- Award recipients will be required to submit documentation of program enrollment before funds are disbursed.

Reporting Requirements:

- Scholarship recipients will be required to submit a brief report outlining their progress in their program and how the scholarship funds were used within three months of the first semester/term.

Additional Information:

- The Peer Support Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the mental and emotional well-being of first responders and their families.
- This scholarship program is funded through private donations and fundraising efforts.
- The foundation reserves the right to modify these guidelines at any time.

For more information and to apply, please visit the Peer Support Foundation website at peersupportfoundation.org

Peer Support Foundation First Responder Scholarship Application Form

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Eligibility Verification

Are you a current or former first responder?

Yes

No

If so, please describe your current or former role as a first responder.

If not, are you an immediate family member of a current or former first responder?

Yes

No

If so, please describe your familial relationship with a first responder.

Are you a legal resident of the United States?

Yes

No

Are you accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited university, college, trade school, or vocational training program for the upcoming academic year (August - July)?

Yes

No

If so, what accredited university, college, trade school, or vocational training program you have been accepted to?

Do you have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale?

Yes

No

Last grade report/transcript attached:

Yes

No

Personal Essay

Please submit a 1000-word essay exploring the following themes:

- Your connection to the first responder community: Share your personal story and relationship with a first responder. Detail their role and how it has impacted your life.
- The impact of being a first responder or family member: Discuss the unique challenges and rewards associated with your connection to the first responder community. How has this connection shaped your perspective and goals?
- Educational or vocational goals: Describe your chosen degree or trade program and your aspirations for the future. Explain how this education will contribute to your personal and professional growth as well as your community.
- Request for scholarship: Explain why you deserve this scholarship and how it will significantly impact your ability to pursue your educational or vocational goals.

Essay Attached:

Yes

No

Letters of Recommendation

Please submit two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your character, work ethic, and academic abilities.

Letters Attached:

Yes

No

Certification

I certify that all information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submission Instructions

Applications must be submitted online through the Peer Support Foundation website or mailed to the designated address by August 30th.

Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, and other approved educational expenses.

For more information, see the Scholarship Guidelines and Application.