

TARRANT COUNTY FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigators Association Future Leaders Scholarship

Policy contents: This policy includes the program eligibility requirements, rules governing the award of scholarship and submittal application form.

PREAMBLE

The Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association is a non-profit benevolent organization established December 20, 1976. The purpose of the organization was to provide a partnership of area and regional fire and arson investigators, composed of municipal, state, federal and private investigators for the investigation of fire and explosion incidents.

The Scholarship Program is established to support graduating high school seniors who intend to pursue higher education or certification in the fields of fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), fire science, criminal justice, or related public safety disciplines.

The membership of the Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association voted, at its regular meeting in April 2000, to establish a scholarship program for the residents of Tarrant and its surrounding counties. The following are the established rules and eligibility requirements, which an individual must meet, to qualify for a scholarship award from the Association.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Be a dependent of a qualifying relative; or
- b) Be sponsored by a qualifying sponsor; or
- c) Be a member of a Career Technology Program.

A **qualifying relative** is defined as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian.

A **qualifying sponsor** may be any individual who meets the certification requirements outlined below.

Qualifying relatives and sponsors must, at the time of application, prior to retirement, or at the time of death, have held a valid certification in one of the following categories and remain in good standing with the issuing authority and the Association:

- **Fire Investigator:** (*Private or Public*) Certified by any state or by a recognized national or international organization such as the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) or the National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI).
- **Firefighter:** Certified by any state or a nationally recognized certification body.
- **Peace Officer:** Certified or licensed by any state or federally recognized authority.

In addition, applicants must:

- Be a graduating senior from an accredited high school.
- Reside within the Arson Task Force service area
- Enrolled or Plan to enroll in an accredited college, university, or certification program within the State of Texas.
- Become and remain enrolled as a part-time or full-time student for a minimum of two (2) consecutive semesters during the academic year in which the application is submitted.
- Demonstrate an interest in public safety, fire service, law enforcement, or EMS.
- Maintain a minimum GPA (recommended: 2.5 or higher, adjust as needed).

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A completed scholarship application form.
- Proof of acceptance or intent to enroll in an eligible program.
- Official or unofficial high school transcript.
- One or more letters of recommendation (teacher, counselor, or community leader).
- A written essay (approx. 500 words) about:

Describe your interest in pursuing a career in fire service, law enforcement, EMS, or a related public safety field. What experiences have influenced this decision, and how do you plan to serve your community in the future?

- *Essays must be the applicant's original work. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or third-party writing services is not permitted. All submissions may be reviewed and vetted for authenticity.*

Selection Criteria

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on:

- Academic performance
- Demonstrated interest in public safety careers
- Community involvement and service
- Leadership qualities
- Quality and thoughtfulness of the essay
- Overall application completeness

Award Determination

- The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the Arson Task Force Scholarship Committee.
- Each award will be no less than \$500, with final amounts determined annually.
- Awards are intended for tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses.

Selection Process

The Scholarship Committee is responsible for reviewing all eligible applications and forwarding its recommendations to the Association Board. The Association Board retains the final decision in the selection and approval of all scholarship recipients.

Payment of Funds

- The scholarship award will be issued as a one-time payment in the amount determined by the Committee. Payment will be made by the TCFAIA Treasurer to the admissions or financial aid office of the institution selected by the recipient. Alternatively, payment may be made directly to the recipient upon submission of proof of payment or enrollment from the attending school.
- Selected individuals are responsible to provide the name of the institution and student ID number for payment.
- Proof of enrollment may be required prior to disbursement.

Timeline

- Application deadline: June 1
- Award notification: June 30

Conditions of Award

- Recipients must enroll in an eligible program within 12 months of graduation from high school.
- The Scholarship Committee must be notified of any changes in enrollment status.
- Failure to enroll within the time frame will result in forfeiture of the award.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Scholarships will be awarded without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability.

Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigators Association

Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigators Association Future Leaders Scholarship Scholarship Application

Submit completed application to

Email: President@tarrantcountyarsontaskforce.org

Or

Mail to: TCFAIA

2750 Premier St

Fort Worth, Texas 76111

Selection:

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Be a dependent of a qualifying relative; or
- b) Be sponsored by a qualifying sponsor; or
- c) Be a member of a Career Technology Program.

A **qualifying relative** is defined as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian.

A **qualifying sponsor** may be any individual who meets the certification requirements outlined below.

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- **Firefighter:** Certified by any state or a nationally recognized certification body.
- **Peace Officer:** Certified or licensed by any state or federally recognized authority.

Criteria:

The Scholarship Program supports graduating high school seniors who are pursuing college or certification programs in fire service, law enforcement, EMS, fire science, criminal justice, or related public safety careers.

Instructions:

Please complete and return this application by emailing or mail via USPS to the address listed above. All applications must be received or postmarked by June 1st of the year in which you are applying.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Please ensure the following documents are attached or is uploaded along with your application:

- a. Proof of acceptance or intent to enroll in an eligible program (college/university, certificate program)
- b. Official or unofficial high school transcript.
- c. Applicants must submit between one (1) and three (3) letters of recommendation from a teacher, school counselor, or community leader.
- d. A typed essay (approx. 500 words)

Describe your interest in pursuing a career in fire service, law enforcement, EMS, or a related public safety field. What experiences have influenced this decision, and how do you plan to serve your community in the future?

NOTE: Essays must be the applicant's original work. The use of AI tools or third-party writing services is prohibited. All submissions are subject to review for authenticity.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date: _____

Applicant Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** Texas **ZIP Code:** _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Age:** _____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION

High School: _____

Graduation Date: _____ **High School GPA:** _____

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

Employer (if applicable): _____

How long employed: _____

Volunteer Work:

School Organizations:

Leadership Experience / Roles:

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

University / College / Certification Program Attending:

Have you been accepted? Yes No

Date You Begin Classes: _____

QUALIFYING RELATIVE OR SPONSOR INFORMATION

Full Name of Qualifying Relative or Sponsor:

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Agency Where Employed or Last Employed:

NOTE: This information will be kept confidential and used only for scholarship evaluation purposes.

Applicant Certification and Authorization

I certify that all information provided in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in disqualification from consideration for this scholarship or revocation of any awarded funds.

I hereby grant permission to the TCFAIA Scholarship Committee, its representatives, and designated agents to verify any and all information submitted in this application, including but not limited to academic records, enrollment status, and supporting documentation.

I further acknowledge that, if selected as a scholarship recipient, I agree to comply with all terms and conditions of the scholarship program.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____