



Illinois Association of Black Law Enforcement (ABLE)

P.O. Box 2484, Springfield, Illinois 62705

### **Captain Robert M. Patton Scholarship**

In 1951, Mr. Robert M. Patton began his career in law enforcement and was a very distinguished Illinois State Police Trooper. Mr. Patton rose through the ranks exhibiting his professional and human relations skills which allowed him to attain the rank of Captain. His appointment to Captain was made immediately after Governor Adlai E. Stevenson removed the Illinois State Police from patronage hiring practices to a merit system. Captain Patton commanded one of the largest districts in the state, District 15 – Tollway. Captain Patton not only became the first African American to attain the rank of Captain in the Illinois State Police, but also in the nation. Captain Patton retired from the Illinois State Police in 1977.

In 1993, the Illinois Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers (ABLE) decided to continue its commitment toward African American youth and implemented the Captain Robert M. Patton Scholarship Award. Our goal is to award three (3) \$1,000.00 scholarship awards to students who desire to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Please see the attached application to apply. To qualify, applicants must have a 3.0 GPA, provide a copy of their transcripts with a wallet size photograph, and are required to submit a three-page essay response to one of the four questions provided. **The deadline to apply is November 30, 2025. The application packet has to be postmarked by the stated submission deadline.** The award recipients will be announced on January 2, 2026.

Please click the link below to donate online.

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=6ZSWD4ERVDWAW>

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Demarreo Johnson at 217-691-1923.

Sincerely,

*Jeremiah Mitchell*

Jeremiah Mitchell  
ABLE President



## Captain Robert M. Patton Scholarship Application Form

PLEASE TYPE OR LEGIBLY PRINT IN BLACK INK

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

Primary phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* INCLUDE A WALLET SIZE PHOTO WITH THE APPLICATION\*\***

High school attended: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been accepted to an accredited college/university? Yes / No (Circle one)

College/University Name or Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment/Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Current or prior GPA: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Agreement Statement**

**I certify that the information supplied on my scholarship application is true, complete and accurate. I authorize the release of information to confirm and/or verify the application. I understand that any inaccurate information of a substantial nature provided as part of this application will result in my disqualification from the process. I understand that I must submit all required information by the stated deadline on my application to be considered for a scholarship. I agree to inform the Scholarship Committee of any additional information or changes to my application, including my status as a qualified student.**

**I have read and understand the qualifications and requirements for the ABLE Scholarship. I also give my permission for ABLE to use any information, within reason, to promote this program such as my name, photos, statements, etc. for the purpose of advertisement, fundraisers, and/or awareness of the scholarship program to continue its existence.**

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Applicant Signature & Date  
(Required)

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Parent/Guardian Signature & Date  
(Required if applicant is under 18 years of age)



**Please select one (1) question and provide a three-page essay response.**

**The essay formatting shall consist of the following:**

- Size 12 times new roman font
  - Double spacing
  - 1-inch margins
  - Page numbers
  - Free of grammatical errors
  - References to any sources used for the completion of this essay
1. Please expound upon a time in your life when you had to overcome difficulty and embrace a new mentality to be successful.
  2. What moment in your life helped define who you want to be for your community, city, state, and nation? What have you begun to do to manifest those plans and ideas?
  3. What is the mechanism that drives your dreams and aspirations?
  4. Please expound on a time you sacrificed something you wanted for the betterment of someone you knew or your community.



**The following is to be completed by the ABLE Scholarship Committee and ABLE personnel only:**

Date of application received: \_\_\_\_\_

Were transcripts and all necessary items received (If no, explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted: (Yes / No) Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant notified of status/outcome: (Yes / No)

Date of notification and method (Phone call or email): \_\_\_\_\_