



Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County

Standard Operating Guidelines

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Subject: Firefighter Scholarship Program

Issued FCABC Board: Babinec, Downey, Turpel, Sayles

I. Introduction:

The Firefighter Scholarship Program was developed by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County (FCABC) to assist students with funding for their education for a career in the Fire Rescue Service. The FCABC will make their scholarship support available to students attending Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, or Fire Academy programs.

Due to the increasing cost of education and the amount of time required to complete the necessary training, the FCABC feels that its commitment and financial support to the Firefighter Scholarship Program can make a difference.

II. Purpose:

The purpose of Firefighter Scholarship program is to financially assist needy students interested in a future within the fire rescue services in Broward County and to expose students to a rewarding career.

III. Community Partnerships:

The FCABC has approached the following organizations to determine that the program's concept meets their requirements. The Association's intent is a partnership with local publicly funded community school that are able to provide quality fire and emergency medical training. They are:

- Broward College
- Broward Fire Academy
- Coral Springs Fire Academy

IV. Funding:

The FCABC maintains funding for this program. Proceeds for these scholarship accounts are raised through donations, fundraisers, Association conferences and the sale of Association memberships to fire rescue trade groups. These funds are earmarked for approved recipients that become part of the Firefighters Scholarship Program.

- The FCABC intent is to fund at least two, one thousand-dollar (\$1000.00) scholarships each year to qualified applicants depending on the number of applicants and the amount of funds available.
- Scholarship funds can be used to pay for registration, tuition, books, lab fees and associated costs of each section of the program that the recipient has been enrolled. The FCABC's Executive Board will determine the amount and area funded.

V. Scholarship Application Process

- All interested individuals who meet the requirements as announced shall complete the Firefighter Scholarship application.
- Applications will be reviewed by the FCABC review panel and forward their recommendations to the Executive Board for approval.
- A minimum of two applicants will be chosen each budget year to receive financial aid. The number will depend on the amount of applicants and the funding available each year.
- All recipients must pass a physical agility test from an approved publicly funded Fire Academy before being accepted into the program.
- All recipients of the scholarship program will receive funding, paid to the selected, publicly funded educational facilities as determined by the FCABC Firefighter Scholarship Fund.
- It is recognized that the program may have participant/ recipients at different stages of the program: fire academy, EMT, or paramedic program.
- Paramedic and EMT students will be required to complete school ride hours on a rescue unit located in Broward County. This would allow on-duty personnel the time to evaluate and tutor individuals in the areas of firefighting, EMT and paramedics skills.
- Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a passing grade, per the approved educational institution's standards, in order to continue their eligibility in the program.
- Recipients will be evaluated throughout the program in order to maintain their status in the program. Scholarship recipient can be expelled from the program for just cause. Examples are: failing a class, lateness, or not following fire department rules and regulations, or other guidelines set forth by the educational institutions or FCABC. See section VII.

VI. Applicant Requirements:

All candidates applying for the Firefighters Scholarship program must meet all the requirements set forth by the FCABC. Applicants must complete a FCABC Application for Admission available on page 4 and 5 or the FCABC website. Application will only be accepted from February 1st until April 30th of each calendar year.

Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Possess a High School Diploma or Equivalent.
- Pass the agility test from a publicly funded State approved fire academy.
- Have documentation of Citizenship or VISA.
- Be a resident of Broward County.
- Not be a tobacco user prior to one year of application date.
- Applicant must pass a complete background check.
- Include letters of reference in the application packet.
- Include a copy of current State of Florida Driver's License
- Be able to meet all requirements of the State of Florida as it pertains to becoming a Firefighter/Paramedic.

Preference can be given to applicants that meet the requirements of financial need, or are covered under federal guidelines of a protected class.

VII. Conditions for discipline or dismissal from program:

All scholarship recipients must conduct themselves in a professional manner. Any conduct that reflects negatively on the program and/or the FCABC shall result in the loss of scholarship funds and the student can be expelled from the program.

Any violation of the medical ethics for patient care or patient confidentiality will result in an investigation conducted by the educational institutions involved. This investigation will determine the proper course of action and may include loss of scholarship funds.

Examples of infractions are:

- Dishonesty, cheating in any form
- Vulgarity during class, clinical, or field internship
- Disruptive behavior in class, clinical, or field internship
- Harassment of instructors, fellow students or field personnel
- Inappropriate “attire” worn while attending training
- Breach of patient confidentiality, copying trip run reports or hospital records
- Falsification of any information on scholarship application, records or program related documents
- Failure to meet the minimum scholastic, clinical, or field internship as required by this program (Passing grade of 2.5 “C” or better)
- Unexcused absence from class, clinical, or field internship
- Reporting late or leaving a class, clinical, or field time without permission
- Theft of hospital, school, or fire department property
- Unprofessional conduct or derogatory language of any kind
- Behavior indicating drug or alcohol abuse will be expelled immediately as with any subsequent arrest, driving or background incident

VIII. Conclusion:

This Firefighter Scholarship Program is an exceptional program. This kind of financial support and commitment is well worth the effort. The program is a partnership between the FCABC, publicly funded educational institutions and the community. The members of the FCABC are committed to providing the best possible service to the community and believe this type of program enhances that commitment.

The Fire Chiefs’ Association of Broward County believes we need to be the leaders in preserving the high level of service that is provided to our residents and visitors, and we must also set the example.

**FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF BROWARD COUNTY
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

1. Applications will only be accepted from February 1st through April 30th each calendar year.
2. All final applicants will be required to complete a background check.
3. If funding is for the fire academy recipients must pass the agility test from a publicly funded fire academy
4. To be eligible for this scholarship you must meet all of the following requirements:
 - a. A resident of Broward County, Florida.
 - b. A non-tobacco products user prior to one year of the application date.
 - c. If your employer has a tuition reimbursement program, you may not be eligible for this award.
5. Complete Application – go to the FCABC website or print out the below application
6. Return the application with the following documentation:
 - a. Proof of Broward County Residency (Copy of driver's license or identification card)
 - b. Copy of your State of Florida Driver's License
 - c. Provide current High School and or College transcript.
 - d. Copy of your PSAT/SAT/ACT Scores, or any scores which may apply.
 - e. Letters of Reference
 - f. Current Resume

General Information:

Applicants' Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Financial Information:

Have you filed an application for Federal Student Aid? _____

Have you received notice of any financial aid? _____ (If yes, for what amount?) _____

Academic Information/Goals:

If a graduating high school senior, what is your SAT and/or ACT or TAB scores (Vocational Test Scores)

SAT: Math: _____ Verbal: _____ Total: _____ ACT: _____ Other: _____

Please list the name of the school you plan to attend during the next school year. If unknown, list schools you applied to:

_____ Location: _____ Applied: _____ Accepted: _____

_____ Location: _____ Applied: _____ Accepted: _____

Enrollment Status for the _____ year: Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Number of credit hours you plan on taking each semester: Fall _____ Spring: _____ Summer: _____

What major or course of study do you plan to pursue? _____

Write a brief description of your personal and educational interests and goals. (You may attach one additional page).

I hereby agree to the conditions of this scholarship and affirm that the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that any false information given will result in my ineligibility for the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County Firefighter Scholarship.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

**Send completed applications to:
Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County
ATTN: Firefighters Scholarship Program
6919 W. Broward Blvd, #152
Plantation, Florida, 33317**