



Returning Montana Professional Firefighters Scholarship Application

Montana State Firefighters Association Benevolent Fund

Scholarships

The Montana State Firefighters Association Benevolent Fund is pleased to announce a scholarship program offering scholarships based upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee to the Montana State Firefighters Association Benevolent Fund Executive Board.

An applicant must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- The scholarships will be made available to the dependent or spouse of current or retired Montana State Firefighters Association members.
- The scholarship will be used for university/college/trade or other post high school education expenses: i.e. tuition, fees, and books.
- Applicants must be attending or planning to attend an accredited university, community college, trade school or other credible post high school experience in 2026-2027 school year.
- Applicants must personally complete the application packet.
- All correspondence and communication about the scholarship application must come from and/or will be directed to the applicants. (Scholarship@MSCOPFF.org)
- Class ranking and GPA are minor in this process. Most important is a desire to experience a post-high school or continuation in college education.

The Scholarship committee of this Organization shall consist of the Executive Board of this Association.



First Time Montana Professional Firefighters Scholarship Application

PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AND DOUBLE CHECK ALL DOCUMENTS. APPLICATIONS TURNED IN WITHOUT ALL SIGNATURES AND DOCUMENTS OR TURNED IN LATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

-Application Period:

Opens March 1st, 2026 – Closes 5pm Mountain Time, April 15, 2026

-Terms and conditions of application and scholarship

Applicants who submit this form and meet the appropriate requirements agree to the following:

- All scholarship winners will be notified in writing to the email address provided.
- Failure to respond to additional steps will disqualify scholarship winners.
- All applications and writing samples become the property of the MSFA Benevolent Fund.
- Distributions are up to \$750.00 per semester for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Scholarship winners will provide proof of acceptance or enrollment each semester.
- All scholarship applications must be the original work of the applicant. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to AI-generated text, writing assistance, or content creation software, is strictly prohibited. Any submission found to have utilized AI in any part of the application will be immediately disqualified.

The selection committee will follow the rules voted on by the members in the MSFA Benevolent Fund Constitution and Bylaws.

- Checklist for application (details on each item below)

- This 3-page packet **completed, signed and emailed by 5pm, April 15, 2026**
- Attached Essay
- Attached Transcripts
- Proof of Acceptance
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Activities, sports and club/community involvement
- Copy of GED or Diploma if early out option exercised (If applicable)
- Letter of good standing from representative of department/local confirming family member involvement in FURS

- I verify to the best of my abilities that the information contained in this application is accurate and correct.

-I agree to the terms and conditions of the MSFA Benevolent Fund Scholarship Program. I authorize the MSFA Benevolent Fund to verify all aspects of this application with my high school, college, university or the employer of my parent or guardian.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if applicable)

Date

Send completed application and **ALL** Documents to: Scholarship@MSCOPFF.org



First Time Montana Professional Firefighters Scholarship Application

-PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Relationship to MSFA member: _____

School being attended with Scholarship money: _____

-EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:

(High School information needed if you are within 4 years of high school graduation. College information needed only if previous college, trade school or other educational attended)

High School Attended: _____

High School GPA: _____

Post High School Educational Experience: _____

Degrees Attained: _____

-ESSAY:

Answer both of the following prompts:

Discuss the differences between Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution pensions.

Discuss how the benefits provided to your family member in the Montana State Firefighters Association affect your family and your future.

-Essays will be graded on originality, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and your ability to express yourself.

-Essays must be double spaced format between one and two pages in length.

-TRANSCRIPTS:

For current high school students or those attending college, please enclose a transcript. If senior year grades are not on the transcript, please attach a copy of your most recent class schedule and grades, i.e., 1st Semester Senior Year or 1st Quarter Senior Year Report Card.

-PROOF OF ACCEPTANCE:

Please include a letter of acceptance to the university, community college or trade school you will be attending.



First Time Montana Professional Firefighters Scholarship Application

-LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Attach three letters of reference, one each from the following sources (if it has been more than 4 years since you attended school, please find another source of reference) Each letter is to consider character, ability, and citizenship.

- School (guidance counselor, faculty, or staff member)
- Organizational Leader (Youth group coordinator, coach, volunteer leader, etc.)
- Employer or other acquaintance

-ACTIVITIES, SPORTS, AND CLUBS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

What activities (including employment), sports or clubs have you been involved in during school? Be specific on the year, the type, and the time commitment of the activity. You may attach a detailed sheet.

-LETTER OF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

Enclose a letter from a local's principal officer or chief officer of the department stating your relationship to that member.

-COPY OF GED OR DIPLOMA IF EARLY OUT OPTION EXERCISED:

Application and attachments must be emailed no later than 5:00PM MST on April 15, 2026, to be considered. Late applications (those emailed after 5:00PM MST on April 15, 2026) will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application has been emailed to the scholarship committee. Scholarship@MSCOPFF.org