

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN 2024-2025

America's Gold Star Families Scholarship for Family Members of the Fallen

Award Amount: \$1,000

Application Period: Deadline is December 11, 2024

Eligibility Criteria: Open to parents, spouses, children, or siblings of U.S. military members who died while serving on active duty. The scholarship is for tuition or books at a college, university, or trade/vocational school.

LINK: <https://americasgoldstarfamilies.org/what-we-do/scholarships>

American Legion Legacy Scholarship

Award Amount: Up to \$20,000 per year

Application Period: Opens November 15, 2024 – Closes April 1, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Children of U.S. military members who died on active duty or have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or higher since 9/11. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized up to \$20,000 for children of the fallen and up to \$5,000 for children of the disabled for undergraduate and post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times.

LINK: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy/about>

AMVETS Spouse Scholarship

Award Amount: \$4,000

Application Period: Mid-January through April 30th at 11:59 pm

Eligibility Criteria: Spouses of Veterans or Active-Duty members of the U.S. military, including the National Guard or Reserves, pursuing an undergraduate degree (no post-grads). AMVETS scholarships are designed to fulfill a financial gap after all Federal/State grants and/or scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been exhausted.

LINK: <https://www.amvets.org/scholarships>

AMVETS Children/Grandchildren Scholarship

Award Amount: \$4,000

Application Period: Mid-January through April 30th at 11:59 pm

Eligibility Criteria: Children or grandchildren of Veterans or Active-Duty members of the U.S. military, including the National Guard or Reserves, pursuing an undergraduate degree (no post-grads). Applicant must be a 12th Grader entering college during the Fall Semester within the year of graduation. AMVETS scholarships are designed to fulfill a financial gap after all Federal/State grants and/or scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been exhausted.

LINK: <https://www.amvets.org/scholarships>

The Brendan Looney Foundation: Senior Scholarships

Award Amount: Varies by year

Application Period: Opens Spring 2025, applications due May 31

Eligibility Criteria: This scholarship is for High School Seniors attending a 4-year college in Fall. This scholarship is for Gold Star Children & Siblings, as well as children of wounded warriors or active duty members of the armed forces. It is a one-time scholarship awarded in the Fall.

LINK: <https://brendanlooneyfoundation.org/scholarships>

The Brendan Looney Foundation: College Scholarships

Award Amount: Varies by year

Application Period: Opens Spring 2025, applications due May 31

Eligibility Criteria: This scholarship is offered anytime during the student's 4 years. This scholarship is for Gold Star Children & Siblings as well the children of wounded warriors or active duty members of the armed forces. It is a one-time scholarship awarded in the Fall.

LINK: <https://brendanlooneyfoundation.org/scholarships>

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Scholarship

Award Amount: Average award of \$6,250 per year

Application Period: Rolling

Eligibility Criteria: Open to children of U.S. military service members who died in the line of military duty, during combat or peacetime. The scholarship covers costs related to undergraduate education: tuition, room and board, books, fees, living expenses, a one-time \$1,000 computer stipend. Students can be enrolled in either public or private institutions; colleges, universities and vocational schools are covered. We do not cover airfare to and from school, and funding cannot be applied to graduate-level education. This Scholarship is meant to bridge the gap in funding between available sources of grants and scholarships (i.e., VA Chapter 33 or 35, federal, state, local and private grants) and the total cost of college.

LINK: <https://www.fallenpatriots.org/faqs-for-families>

The Cost of Courage Foundation

Sgt. Donald Fitzmaurice Memorial Scholarship & LCpl Travis Layfield Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1,000 each

Application Period: Deadline is October 1, 2024; awards in November 2024

Eligibility Criteria: Open to Gold Star children, spouses, siblings of U.S. military members KIA, and children of First Responders killed in the line of duty. This \$1,000 scholarship can be put toward any level of education or an educational camp or learning experience that will provide academic enrichment.

LINK: <https://www.thecostofcouragefoundation.org/gold-star-fund.html>

Defense Commissary Agency Scholarships for Military Children

Award Amount: \$2,000

Application Period: December 15, 2024 - February 15, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Unmarried dependent children under the age 23 who possess a valid Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card, with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate program leading to a bachelor's degree or a community/junior college designed to allow for a direct transfer into a four-year program.

LINK: <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children/>

Fisher House Heroes' Legacy Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies (depends on available funds)

Application Period: December 11, 2024 - February 12, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Dependent unmarried children under age 23 of active-duty personnel, Reserve/Guard, retired, or disabled service members, or survivors of those who died on active duty after September 11, 2001. Applicants must be pursuing an undergraduate degree or community college program leading to a four-year degree. This scholarship will pay for qualified expenses which include tuition, fees, lab fees, books, and other degree-related costs.

LINK: <https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/heroes-legacy-scholarship/>

Folded Flag Foundation Scholarships

Award Amount: Varies

Application Period: Summer applications (March 1 - April 15); Fall/Spring applications (now closed)

Eligibility Criteria: Spouses (all ages) or children (under 26) of U.S. military members or government employees who died due to hostile action or in an accident related to US combat operations. Scholarships are for K-12, college, or technical/trade school expenses.

Through The **Children's Education Scholarship**, children of the fallen, from K-12, can receive a scholarship and educational grants to cover private school tuition and fees, tutoring, after-school programs, summer camps, and other expenses.

College-bound spouses and children can receive the **College or Technical/Trade School Scholarship**. This will cover tuition and fees, books, computers, and living expenses including childcare, tutoring, test preparation services, and career preparation expenses.

LINK: <https://www.foldedflagfoundation.org/how-to-apply/>

Folds of Honor Military Scholarship

Scholarship Award Amount: Up to \$5,000

Application Period: February 1 - March 31, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Spouses and children of U.S. military members who are KIA, lost a limb, died while on active duty, or who have been classified as having a service-connected evaluation, rated by the VA .

The **Higher Education Scholarship** is for spouses and children who are enrolled or planning to be enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to a bachelor's degree, attending an accredited college or university, or enrolled in an accredited technical or trade school program that results in a certificate or diploma, as long as you don't already have a bachelor's degree. The award will subsidize the costs of tuition, school books, fees, on-campus room and board, approved education and tutoring, and other expenses. This award is based on "unmet need" and can be valued up to \$5,000. If a student is going to school on a part-time basis, they would only receive up to \$2,500.

The **Children's Fund Scholarship** helps provide support for dependents ages K-12 for approved and accredited private school tuition, educational tutoring, required books, and school uniforms.

LINK: <https://foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/>

The Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund

Award Amount: Varies (depends on available funds and student's needs)

Application Period: Rolling; applications for 2025/2026 school year will be reviewed in May

Eligibility Criteria: This scholarship is available for children (age 26 and under) of military members who have been killed or permanently disabled in an operational mission or training accident. Applicants must be a senior in high school, a high school graduate or currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program. This award is good for tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, meal plans, transportation expenses, off-campus rent, and other expenses that come with the cost of education.

LINK: <https://fascholarship.com/>

Gold Star Mission Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1,000

Application Period: November 1, 2024 - February 1, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: All Gold Star Family Members with an Illinois connection; high school senior, graduate, or GED holder; or currently enrolled in an accredited institution pursuing higher education (undergraduate degree, certificate, or trade/technical certification). Scholarships can be used to subsidize the costs of tuition, school books, fees, on-campus room and board, approved educational tutoring, and other educational expenses deemed appropriate by the student's school and approved by the GSM scholarship committee.

LINK: <https://www.goldstarmission.org/Scholarship.php>

Gold Star Peak Remembrance Scholarship

Award Amount: Not specified (varies)

Application Period: 2025/2026 Scholarship period will open in Spring 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Gold Star family members (spouses, children, parents, and siblings) or U.S. military veterans enrolled in accredited institutions; requires DD 1300 or DD 214, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and an essay. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted in an accredited institution of higher learning or recognized vocation school. Funds will be sent directly to the institution and may be used for tuition, registration fees, textbooks (purchased through the institution), on-campus housing, and on-campus meal plans.

LINK: <https://www.goldstarpeak.org/scholarship-opportunities/>

Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies

Application Period: June 15 – August 31

Eligibility Criteria: Columbia Southern University offers the Grace Darling Seibold Scholarship to support American Gold Star Mothers (AGSM). The scholarship covers tuition for one online degree program (associate, bachelor, or master) up to 60 semester hours or 36 months. Eligible applicants must be AGSM members in good standing for the last two years, have a high school transcript or GED, be ready to start coursework within six months, and maintain a 2.0 undergraduate or 3.0 graduate GPA. Current students must also meet these criteria to be considered.

LINK: <https://www.columbiasouthern.edu/tuition-financing/scholarships/military/grace-darling-seibold-scholarship/>

Hope for the Warriors Military Spouse Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies

Application Period: March 1 – April 30

Eligibility Criteria: This scholarship is to identify, recognize and reward Post 9/11 spouses/caregivers for what they do in the face of adversity. The money awarded is to help aid in continuing education at a reputable, accredited university, college or trade school. The scholarship can be used for tuition, books, and supplies.

Scholarships include:

Honorary Scholarship – Awarded to those seeking a graduate or postgraduate degree.

Restoring Family Scholarship – Awarded to Spouses of the Fallen

New Beginnings Scholarship – Awarded to those pursuing entry-level classes or training.

Restoring Hope Scholarship – Awarded to an MSW Student

Restoring Self Scholarship – Awarded to those seeking any undergraduate degree.

LINK: <https://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/programs/financial-wellness-life-roles/military-spouse-scholarships/>

Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies (based on funding)

Application Period: March 1 - June 1, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Purple Heart recipients or a service member who was KIA or died of their wounds, their spouses, children, and grandchildren. Applicants must be a high school graduate or upcoming high school graduate, or a GED holder, enrolled full-time in a U.S. college, university, or trade school with a minimum 2.75 GPA. Graduate students, as well as those seeking an additional undergraduate degree, do not qualify. The award can be used for tuition, books, incidental fees, room and board, and other direct costs. LINK: <https://www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram>

National Military Family Association Military Spouse Scholarships

Amount Awarded: Average amount \$1000

Application Period: Open year round

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant must be the spouse of a service member who served post-9/11/2001 and meets one of the following criteria: active-duty, retiree (including medically retired), 100% disabled veteran, guardsman, reservist, fallen service member, or a 20/20/20 spouse. The applicant must also have or be eligible to hold a valid military/Uniformed Services ID. NMFA scholarships help pay for all degrees from GEDs to PhDs, professional licenses, certifications and re-licensure, supervised clinical hours, business and entrepreneurial expenses, continuing education courses, and more.

LINK: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/>

Pat Tillman Foundation Scholar Program

Amount Awarded: Average amount \$10,000

Application Period: November 1 – February 1

Eligibility Criteria: This award is for spouses of active duty service members or veteran service members, including surviving spouses. Applicants need to be enrolled full-time in a degree program. This award is also only for those that are pursuing an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree. The award is good for tuition and fees, living expenses, and books.

LINK: <https://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply/>

Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program

Award Amount: Varies by year, between \$500-\$2,200

Application Period: Open year-round, must re-apply every year

Eligibility Criteria: This award provides Spouses of active duty or retired Soldiers, and widows(ers) of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, with financial assistance to pursue their first undergraduate college degree. The award is based on financial need, for full or part-time students attending an accredited college. Spouses may receive assistance for up to four academic years of full-time study or eight academic years of part-time study as long as they meet all other requirements.

LINK: <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/spouse/>

APPLICATION:

<https://aerhq.academicworks.com/>

The Major Lucas Gruenther Foundation: Family of a Fallen Hero Educational Scholarship

Award Amount: \$4,444.44

Application Period: Twice Annually, Due March 22 and October 11

Eligibility Criteria: A scholarship in the amount of \$4,444.44 will be awarded to a family member of a fallen hero of the Armed Forces who emulates Luc's spirit and tenacity for life. The scholarship eligibility criteria require applicants to be American citizens who are not related to any Board Member. The scholarship must be applied toward an educational goal, such as attending college, technical or trade schools, or professional development programs.

LINK: <https://www.mlgf.org/scholarships>

The Major Lucas Gruenther Foundation: Pursue Your Passion Scholarship

Award Amount: \$2,222.22

Application Period: Twice Annually, Due March 22 and October 11

Eligibility Criteria: This scholarship is intended for an individual who has an educational goal they would like to achieve. This includes pursuits outside the academic realm but that are still educational including film school, culinary school, a photography class, etc. If you have an educational passion you would like to pursue apply now. Scholarship eligibility criteria require applicants to be American citizens who are not related to any Board Member.

LINK: <https://www.mlgf.org/scholarships>

Navy SEAL Foundation Dependent Children Scholarship

Award Amount: Merit-based, varies; non-transferrable

Application Period: January 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Eligibility for the NSF Scholarship includes high school senior or college-age dependent children of Active Duty SEALs or SWCCs, as well as those whose parents are SEAL or SWCC retirees with over 20 years of active duty service (or medically retired). Additionally, Gold Star families with high school senior or college-age children are eligible. College-age dependents must be 26 years old or younger and unmarried. Funds are paid directly to educational institutions toward post-secondary programs such as Bachelor's or Associate degrees, or certificate and licensure programs. Cannot be used for prior expenses, professional licensure renewals, student loans, or childcare.

LINK: <https://www.navysealfoundation.org/scholarship-faqs/>

Navy SEAL Foundation Spouse Scholarship

Award Amount: Merit-based, varies; non-transferrable

Application Period: January 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Eligibility for the NSF Scholarship includes spouses of Active Duty SEALs or SWCCs, as well as spouses of SEAL or SWCC retirees with over 20 years of active duty service (or medically retired). Additionally, Gold Star spouses and surviving spouses of service members are eligible to apply. Funds are paid directly to educational institutions toward post-secondary programs such as Bachelor's or Associate degrees, Graduate degree programs, or certificate and licensure programs. Cannot be used for prior expenses, professional licensure renewals, student loans, or childcare.

LINK: <https://www.navysealfoundation.org/scholarship-faqs/>

NMCCG Enlisted Dependent Spouse Scholarship

Award Amount: \$1000

Application Period: January 1 – March 31

Eligibility Criteria: Two awards given to assist a Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard dependent spouse, active duty, retired, widow or widower to continue his/her college education, vocational business or other training. The applicant shall be verified as a qualified dependent, submit a copy of the military ID card and attach a copy of the applicant's previous years federal tax return with the application. One award is given in the name of Cecelia Clark in gratitude of her gift to NWCA.

LINK: <https://navywivesclubsofamerica.org/scholarships/>

No Greater Sacrifice

Amount Awarded: Varies

Application Period: January 1 – April 1, 2025

Eligibility Criteria: No Greater Sacrifice (NGS) is dedicated to the children of our nation's fallen and wounded Service members (post 9/11/01) by delivering scholarships and resources to improve their quality of life through the pursuit of higher education. NGS defines "higher education" as advanced learning through a bachelor's degree or associate's degree from an approved institution or certificate from a trade school.

LINK: <https://nogreatersacrifice.org/who-we-help#g-feature>

RF-Lambda Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: Up to \$14,000

Application Period: 2025/26 Scholarship will open in Spring 2025

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be the son or daughter of a military service member who died while on active duty (the manner of death does not matter) and a senior in high school or attending college. Scholarships funds will be paid directly to the institution for such items as tuition, housing, fees or academic tutoring needs that pertain to selected coursework.

LINK: <https://www.thesugarbearfoundation.org/news/2019/3/15/scholarship-application-the-rf-lambda-memorial-scholarship>

Scholarship Foundation of the Navy Wives Clubs of America, Inc

Award Amount: 31 different scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to \$1,500

Application Period: January 1 – March 31

Eligibility Criteria: Open to natural born, legally adopted or stepson or daughter of an Enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard on active duty, or retired with pay or the son or daughter of a deceased member of these categories. Applicants must have a valid dependent's ID card. Applicants must show basis of need for financial assistance, have a scholastic standing of at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA), and be a graduate of an accredited high school or its equivalent or will qualify for graduation prior to beginning eligibility for assistance. The grants may be used for tuition, room and board, fees and books.

LINK: <https://navywivesclubsofamerica.org/scholarships/>

Seabee Memorial Scholarship

Amount Awarded: Up to \$5,200

Application Period: January 2 – April 15

Eligibility Criteria: Scholarships are awarded for accredited four-year bachelor's degrees, two-year associates degrees or Career & Technical Education (CTE) degrees (12-18 month career and technical education programs). We do not provide scholarships for graduate school, part-time programs or great-grandchildren. Scholarship awards may be used for tuition, books and academic-related fees. Scholarships are renewable for up to four-years provided recipient meets academic requirements.

LINK: <https://www.seabee.org/scholarshipsinfo>

The Sienna Hicks Gold Star Sibling Grant

Award Amount: Up to \$10,000

Application Period: October 12 to April 15

Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must be Gold Star Siblings—siblings of military members who died while serving, whether active duty or reserve. Applicants must be actively enrolled in any level of college or university education. All required information must be submitted correctly and before the deadlines. The specific circumstances of the sibling's passing do not affect eligibility, though applicants may share their stories if desired.

LINK: <https://www.hicksstrong.org/gold-star-sibling-grant.html>

Special Operations Warrior Foundation Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies based on need

Application Period: Rolling

Eligibility Criteria: Children of Special Operations personnel who died in the line of duty or are Medal of Honor recipients. Scholarships can be used at four-year private and public schools, and two-year community colleges, vocational-technical training, and career institutions.

Special Operations Warrior Foundation provides funding for preschool programs for all eligible children, ages 2-5. SOWF will provide up to \$8,000 per calendar year (per child) for preschool programs that have national accreditation for early childhood programs.

Special Operations Warrior Foundation has added private school tuition assistance of up to \$5,000 per student, per year for students in kindergarten—12th grade.

LINK: <https://specialops.org/what-we-do/educational-programs/>

United States Navy Memorial Scholarship

Award Amount: Varies

Application Period: Opens Spring 2025, applications due April 1

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be the grandchild of a deceased Chief Petty Officer (E7, E8, E9) from the United States Navy or Coast Guard and should be prepared to provide proof of this relationship. They must be selected to attend or currently attending an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational/trade school. Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate degree programs or vocational/trade credentials only.

LINK: <https://navymemorial.swoogo.com/scholarship-2024>

Veterans United Foundation Scholarships

Award Amount: Varies based on need, up to \$10,000

Application Period: March 1 – March 31

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must be a veteran with 100% service connected disability, a surviving spouse of a deceased service member from a service-related death, or a surviving child of a deceased service member from a service-related death. Applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college or university for the upcoming semester pursuing an associate's, bachelor's, graduate, post-graduate or doctoral degree. Scholarship may be applied toward tuition, books, fees, school materials and some aspects of room and board as determined by Veterans United Foundation.

LINK: <https://www.enhancelives.com/scholarships/>

Wings Over America

Award Amount:\$5,000

Application Period: October 1-March 1

Eligibility Criteria: The scholarship is available to dependent children and spouses of Navy aviation personnel, including active duty, retired, honorably discharged, or deceased members, both officers and enlisted. Applicants must be high school seniors or currently enrolled in college or a trade/technical school, with the service member having served in Navy Aviation Commands for at least eight years. The scholarships, which average \$5,000 and cover tuition only, are primarily for undergraduate studies, not graduate programs. WOASF awards around 50 scholarships annually, including both one-time and renewable awards.

LINK: <https://wingsoveramerica.us/app>

VA Education Benefits: Fry Scholarship

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship offers educational benefits to the children and spouses of Armed Forces or Selected Reserve members who died on active duty or due to a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001. Eligible children must be at least 18 or have graduated high school and will need to forgo Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if they choose the Fry Scholarship. Surviving spouses can use the scholarship without losing DIC payments but will lose eligibility if they remarry. The scholarship provides up to 36 months of coverage for tuition, housing, and books/supplies at approved institutions. Tuition is paid directly to the school and recipients receive a monthly Basic Housing Allowance and book stipend.

LINK: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>

VA Education Benefit: Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program provides educational benefits to the children and spouses of Veterans or service members who have died, are captured or missing, or are permanently disabled due to service-connected disabilities. Eligible children can be either married or unmarried but must forgo DEA if they join the military or if they receive a dishonorable discharge. Those receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) must give up those payments to use DEA, though spouses can receive both benefits. DEA offers monthly payments for school costs, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, licensing tests, and preparatory courses. Benefits last up to 45 months for programs started before August 1, 2018, and up to 36 months for those starting on or after that date. Educational and career counseling may also be available.

LINK: <https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/>

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH ENGINES

CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder

Search more than 9,500 scholarships, fellowships, grants, and other financial aid award opportunities. Presented by the U.S. Department of Labor.

LINK: <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

Fisher House Scholarship Search Tool

Find scholarships available for children and spouses of military (active/reserved/retired), and veterans.

LINK: <https://search.militaryscholar.org/>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Scholarship Search Tool

Complete the steps in the form and Education Support Services will email you with a detailed and specialized list of scholarship information and benefits resources that you may be eligible for to help you reach your postsecondary educational goals.

LINK: <https://www.taps.org/scholarships>

U.S. Department of Education State Grant Agencies

Contact the department of education, the higher education agency, special education agency and adult education agency in your state. Search for “scholarship” on their website.

LINK: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html>