

NEW JERSEY STATE EXEMPT FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC

2026 FIRE SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Objective

The New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association (NJSEFA) established the Fire Service Scholarship Program to assist qualified students to advance their education in their chosen field of study.

Through the program, NJSEFA will provide scholarship grants to qualified students seeking to advance their education in their chosen field of study. Tuition assistance is offered based upon merit to individuals pursuing higher education (full or part time) at an accredited institution of higher education. NJSEFA recognizes the professional diversity represented within fire service memberships and the value of encouraging its continuance. Therefore, all students meeting eligibility requirements and enrolled in college level programs will be considered for the NJSEFA Fire Service Scholarship Program.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Must be a Resident of the State of New Jersey.
2. Must be a high school graduate or GED equivalent.
3. Must be a Child or Grand Child of a New Jersey Exempt Firefighter.

Additional Credit given if the student

1. Enrolling in a Fire Science Program.
2. Active member in good standing with a New Jersey Fire Company or Department.

Scholarship Awards and Rules

1. The number of scholarships available and the amount of each scholarship is determined on a yearly basis by NJSEFA. NJSEFA reserves the right to limit the number of scholarships awarded each year.
2. The 2026 scholarships will be up to three (3), each one will be \$1,500.00. One selection will be made from the North, Central and Southern sections of the state.
3. No more than one scholarship will be granted per family per year.
4. Scholarship is to be applied against tuition. In the event that the tuition for the course or program selected is less than the amount of the scholarship, the amount of the scholarship is limited to tuition cost. No claim can be made against NJSEFA or the college for the remaining scholarship amount.
5. Recipient must agree to return to NJSEFA an amount equal to the scholarship award should he/she withdraw from the program chosen prior to the formal completion of such program.
6. Recipient must agree to submit to NJSEFA an official college transcript at the end of each semester for which a tuition scholarship was awarded.
7. Recipient can attend a junior college or a four-year college or university, working toward an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or doctoral degree.
8. The 2026 scholarship recipient will be announced on June 6, 2026, at the 138th Annual NJ State Exempt Firemen's Convention in Bernardsville, NJ.

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Required Materials for Consideration

1. Completed NJSEFA Scholarship Application.
2. Two (2) written letters of recommendation. Both individuals must also be listed on the Scholarship Application. Each person will serve as a reference that can substantiate the applicant's potential for academic success. NJSEFA will be authorized to contact the individuals listed as references concerning the applicant, if necessary.
3. Transcript or record of last year of school.
4. Tuition or fee statement from college/university.
5. Copy of program description and course descriptions from college catalogue.
6. An essay (500 words or less) on the applicant's career plans and academic studies. Please include why the applicant is applying for financial aid and any other information that will aid in selecting the applicant as the recipient of the award.
7. Proof of Exempt Status of relative or a copy of their Exemption Certificate.

Judgment of Applicants

The following criteria will be considered by NJSEFA when judging applicants:

1. Scholastic achievement
2. Quality of Essay
3. Recommendations and references

Additional credit given if the student

1. Enrolling in a Fire Science Program.
2. Active member in good standing with a New Jersey Fire Company or Department.

Submitting Required Materials

Application must be postmarked on or before May 1, 2026. All required materials shall be submitted at the same time. If any items are missing, the candidate will not be considered for an award.

Submit all required materials to:

The NJSEFA Scholarship Committee
William J. Smith, Chairman
22 Cleveland Ave
South River, NJ 08882

Please assemble your application package in the following order:

1. Completed application form.
2. Transcript or record of last year of school.
3. Copy of program description and course descriptions from the college catalogue.
4. Tuition and fee statement from the college/university.
5. Essay.
6. Two (2) letters of reference.

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APPLICATION

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State New Jersey Zip _____

County _____ Phone # _____

Name and date of high school from which you graduated:

If not a graduate, when are you scheduled to graduate or earn your GED _____

Name of Relative to that Exempt Firefighter _____

Reference #1 Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Relation to Applicant _____

Reference #2 Name _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Relation to Applicant _____

- Please submit a letter from a Chief Officer indicating proof of Exempt Status of the relative or a copy of their Exemption Certificate. Document that relationship. (Parent or Grandparent)
- Please list all extra-curricular activities in which you participated during high school.
- Please list all community activities in which you have been active.
- What are your current educational plans?
- Do not staple the application.