

# Valdez Firefighters Association

PO Box 1381 Valdez, AK 99686

The Valdez Firefighters Association is a non-profit organization comprised of first responders, both paid and volunteer, from the Valdez Fire Department. We would like to support the youth of Valdez in their educational journey by offering scholarships to local graduating seniors.

The intent of the scholarship is to encourage public service among the young adults in our community, while enabling them to continue their education. Extra points will be awarded to applicants pursuing a career in emergency services. Thank you for applying for this scholarship.

## AWARD AMOUNT

1. The scholarship will be dedicated to tuition and/or housing costs.
2. Disbursements will be allocated directly to the recipient's school or housing authority.
3. Award winners must provide proof of enrollment in a college, university, or trade school before September 20<sup>th</sup> of the award year.

## METHOD OF SELECTION

1. All entries will be reviewed by the VFA Scholarship Committee.
2. The winner will be chosen based on adherence to, and performance in, the scholarship criteria below via a point system.

## CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

1. The applicant must be a **graduating high school senior** enrolled in Valdez City Schools, or a home school program in the city limits of Valdez, during the current Valdez City Schools calendar year.
2. The applicant must include one **letter of recommendation** from a Valdez School District educator/administrator, coach, religious leader, employer, or a reputable mentor (not a relative).
3. A current **high school transcript** (grades 9-12) must be submitted with the application. For transfer students, a copy of their high school transcript(s) must be included from previous high schools attended. A minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 (unweighted) is required of all applicants.
4. The applicant must possess an **acceptance letter to an accredited** college, university, or trade school prior to award disbursements.
5. The applicant must **complete and sign** the application; a parent's signature is required if under 18.
6. All required items described herein must be submitted at the same time prior to the entry deadline in the following order **with the application check-off sheet attached to the outside of a sealed envelope**: **1**-signed application filled out electronically, **2**-recommendation letter, **3**-high school transcript(s), **4**-copy of acceptance letter, and **5**-essay. No partial application submissions will be accepted.
7. All application criteria must be **complete and true** or the application will be rejected.
8. The essay must be **double-spaced**; in **Times New Roman** font – size **12**; and **at least 500** words, but no more than **1200**. The essay **MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK** and

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describe/address the following topics and questions in a continuous and fluid essay format:

- A. Your intended institution of higher education, why you made this choice, and what you are looking forward to the most about that particular institution.
  - B. Your career path and how this institution/program will help you accomplish your life goals.
  - C. If you're pursuing education in an emergency services field explain why; include factors in your life that may have led you to pursue being a first responder.
  - D. Explain why you feel you should be awarded the scholarship.
9. Entry deadline for completed scholarship packets is on or before **May 15<sup>th</sup>** of the current year.

## **APPLICATION SUBMITTAL**

All required documents described herein must be **mailed**, by the applicant, in a sealed envelope that does not require folding of the enclosed contents, to the fire department prior to the deadline. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Use the application check-off sheet when submitting your application to indicate all required documents are included. Attach the check-off sheet to the front of your application. Mail to: **The Valdez Fire Department, PO Box 307, Valdez, AK 99686.**