

OPERATION HOMEFRONT'S MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2009 APPLICATION



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Operation Homefront is proud to announce Operation Homefront's Military Spouse Scholarship Program. The scholarships will be awarded to recipients on August 30, 2009. Selection for the scholarship will be made by a panel of judges and the award will be scored in three areas: the applicant's response to the essay question, his or her commitment to volunteerism and grade point average. Applicants must follow instructions carefully and complete the application in its entirety in order to be considered.

The scholarship award is offered to spouses of uniformed service members to attend a four-year college or university, graduate school, accredited trade school, certificate program, vocational school or community college. Thirty seven scholarships are currently being offered, totaling \$100,000. The winner of the grand prize scholarship will receive \$10,000; two first-place award winners will receive \$7,500; four second-place award winners will receive \$5,000; 10 third-place award winners will receive \$2,500; and 20 runners up will each receive \$1,500. The scholarship funds may be used to assist with tuition, fees and books and will be paid directly to the educational institution. Applicants must resubmit an application each year they would like to be considered.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The applicant must be a legal spouse of a military member currently serving on active duty, whether active duty, Reserve or a member of the United States National Guard (Members of the Reserves or National Guard are considered the same as active duty as long as they have served at least 180 combined days of full time military duty since January 1, 2007).
2. The applicant must be accepted by an educational institution or expect to be accepted by the same.
3. The applicant must utilize funds at an accredited trade school, certificate program, vocational school, university or college within 24 months of receiving the award. All funds will be paid directly to the educational institution by Operation Homefront upon verification of enrollment and eligibility status. If applicant is enrolled in an accredited institution at the end of the 24th month and has not fully utilized the award, applicant may continue to utilize the remaining balance provided the recipient continuously remains enrolled in at least three semester units of course study as defined by the educational institution.

**COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE MAILED AND POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN AUG 1, 2009. (DEADLINE RECENTLY EXTENDED from July 15)**

SELECTION PROCESS:

Only applications that are complete and are submitted in accordance with the guidance provided in this application will be forwarded to the selection committee for review. Applicants are asked to pay close attention to page 8 of this document for a checklist of appropriate submissions.

All applicants will be required to submit a copy of a military ID card, transcripts and proof of volunteer hours if selected as an award recipient.

The five-person selection committee is independent of the Operation Homefront Board of Directors.

Winners will be notified in writing by August 30, 2009.

NOTE: SEE THE APPLICATION CHECKLIST ON PAGE 8

Please follow all instructions carefully.

**INCOMPLETE, LATE OR IMPROPERLY SUBMITTED
APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO THE SELECTION
COMMITTEE.**

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE MAILED AND POSTMARKED NO
LATER THAN AUG 1, 2009.**

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please write:

Operation Homefront
8930 Fourwinds Drive, Suite 340
San Antonio, TX 78239

Applications are available at www.homefrontonline.com.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Please complete this page. Type or print all responses. Note those sections that concern the specific scholarship for which you are applying.

I AM ATTENDING A: (select one of the following choices)

- Vocational School
- Certificate Program
- Community College
- Accredited Trade School
- Graduate School
- Four-Year Undergraduate School

APPLICANT'S NAME:

LAST FIRST MI

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

APPLICANT'S PHONE NUMBER:

HOME (____) _____

WORK (IF APPLICABLE) (____) _____

APPLICANT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS:

SPOUSE'S FULL NAME:

RANK LAST FIRST MI

SPOUSE'S PHONE NUMBERS:

HOME (____) _____

WORK (IF APPLICABLE) (____) _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OPERATION HOMEFRONT'S MILITARY SPOUSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

- school counselor
- www.operationhomefront.net
- www.homefrontonline.com
- ombudsman
- Family Readiness Group
- key volunteer
- another military spouse
- education center
- sponsor's chain of command
- other _____

ALL APPLICANTS MUST READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Under authority of U.S. Title 10, Section 3012, the enclosed personal information will be maintained by Operation Homefront for administrative use and released to the individuals needed to evaluate the application. The disclosure of the information is voluntary, however, failure to disclose all or part of the requested information may hinder evaluation of the application. I certify that the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I may be disqualified if I have included false information in this application. I agree to abide by the conditions of the Scholarship program and the decision of the Scholarship Program's Selection Panel and in no way shall question their selection of the winner's and alternates.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

ALL APPLICANTS MUST READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING:

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I, _____, hereby give my consent to Operation Homefront to release information concerning my application for the Operation Homefront's Military Spouse Scholarship Program. I also understand that Operation Homefront shall have the rights, title, and interests to the application and all documentation submitted as part of the scholarship application and all rights thereto.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

SUMMARY OF APPLICANT EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/ESSAY

On a separate sheet(s) of paper, please restate each question and then provide a complete response. Please type and double space all responses. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE SHEETS.**

1. IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, BEGINNING WITH THE MOST RECENT, LIST ALL SCHOOLS YOU HAVE ATTENDED SINCE YOU GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL. IF YOU DID NOT GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, LIST THE SCHOOLS YOU HAVE ATTENDED SINCE GRADE 9.

Please use the following format:

School name----Location of school----Dates attended----Graduation Date/Projected Date (if applicable) ----
Grade Point Average

If you have begun taking college credits, please note after the "dates attended" the number of credits you have completed. If you have completed a GED, please note that information under "School Name," noting the date the degree was awarded.

Example:

ABC Community College Camp Anywhere, USA August 2005 – Present 6 credit hours
completed 4.0 GPA

(Note: Grade Point Average is a key component to this scholarship award. If tentatively selected as a winner, you will be required to provide official high school or college transcripts as verification prior to formal selection.)

2. IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, LIST ALL VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES **CURRENTLY** ENGAGED IN ON A REGULAR AND CONSISTENT BASIS.

(E.G., Family Readiness Group leader, Ombudsman, animal shelter, Operation Homefront chapter, PTA, athletics, church activities, community service.) Please include the number of hours per week on average spent participating in these activities.

Example:

County Historical Museum Camp Anywhere, USA May 2007 – Present 4 hours/week
Position: Tour Guide

ABC Animal Shelter Camp Anywhere, USA April 2008 – Present 10 hours/week
Position: I walk dogs and clean out pet kennels.

(Note: Volunteerism is a key component to this scholarship award. If tentatively selected as a winner, you will be required to provide written proof of current volunteer hours prior to formal selection.)

3. IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, LIST ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS HELD AND AWARDS/HONORS EARNED DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

Example:

Treasurer, Spouses Club	Camp Anywhere, USA	May 2007 – 2008
Family Readiness Group B-Company,	Camp Anywhere, USA	August – November 2007

SUMMARY OF APPLICANT EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE/ESSAY (continued)

4. LIST ALL HOBBIES/INTERESTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS 1-4. Please describe the hobby and the length of time you have been involved with this activity.

Example:

I am actively involved with my church but do not volunteer on a weekly or consistent basis. I am available to help with Sunday school class, Vacation Bible School, and ushering as needed. I have been involved with this church for about six months.

5. ESSAY, IN 300 WORDS OR LESS ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

How, besides being a military spouse, do you feel you have contributed to make your community a better place?

Neatness, grammatical accuracy and creativity should be given emphasis when writing this essay.

Also, please note that every word is counted towards the 300-word limit.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The letter of recommendation must be from a nonprofit organization or other group with whom you have volunteered with in the last 12 months.

TO THE AUTHOR:

1. Please address the letter to the Operation Homefront's Military Spouse Scholarship Committee.
2. The selection committee recommends that you address the following areas in your letter: average number of hours volunteered on a weekly basis, volunteer duties and importance of those duties to the organization.
3. Within the letter, please note your relationship to the applicant.
4. Seal the letter of recommendation in an envelope with your signature over the seal. Write the applicant's name on the front of the envelope.
5. Return the completed letter in the sealed envelope to the applicant. All letters must be submitted to the Operation Homefront's Scholarship for Military Spouses Committee, as part of the entire application packet in a single mailing.
6. Completed applications must be postmarked on or before Aug 1, 2009.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please complete this checklist to ensure that the application is complete and properly submitted. Once again, incomplete or improperly submitted applications will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

Please submit the required components in the following order:

_____ Complete the Applicant Information (pages 3).

_____ Sign the Privacy Statement and Release of Liability (pages 4 and 5).

_____ Complete the Summary of Applicant Education/Experience (pages 6 and 7) according to the instructions on your own paper. PLEASE PROOF ALL WORK.

_____ Include your response to the essay question (page 7). Essays over 300 words will not be forwarded to the selection committee. PLEASE PROOF ALL WORK.

_____ Include the letter of recommendation. The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope with the author's signature over the seal (page 8).

_____ Place all of the above in a single envelope addressed to:

**Operation Homefront's Military Spouse Scholarship Program
8930 Fourwinds Drive, Suite 340
San Antonio, Texas 78239**

_____ The complete application and packet must be mailed to the address above and postmarked no later than Aug 1, 2009.

Late applications will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

REMINDER: Grade Point Average and Volunteerism are key components to this scholarship award; therefore, if tentatively selected as a winner, you will be required to provide official high school or college transcripts and written proof of current volunteer hours within 10 days of notification and prior to formal selection.