

GUIDELINES and CRITERIA for SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Alarm Industry Foundation of Florida (AIFF) awards different types of advanced education Scholarships directed at Florida residents attending Florida schools that potentially lead to careers in the security, fire alarm or low voltage industries or public safety fire or law enforcement.

- 1. Individual Advanced Study Scholarships:** The Foundation will award Advanced Study scholarships for college, technical or trade school tuition annually. Available funds will be utilized to the fullest, with the award being a general academic scholarship for a specific academic year. Direct grants to students will be in a voucher to the school they will be attending and is to be used by the student to cover any qualified tuition expenses. Students receiving an academic scholarship for a specific year are eligible to reapply for a second, third, or fourth year based on the student's performance, personal need, and overall merit.
- 2. Institutional Program Scholarships:** Colleges or departments that offer a course of study that would lead a student to a career in the Security Alarm, Fire Alarm, Low Voltage, Public Safety Fire or Law Enforcement Industries are eligible to apply for a tuition assistance grant. Once awarded, the school will be responsible for awarding the scholarship to a student (or students) attending their program who would merit the tuition assistance, based on the school's own criteria. Schools wishing to apply should submit a letter on school stationery, signed by the department head, along with brochures or other supporting materials. One should detail the course of study offered, the type of students served, career paths of graduates, the level of need, and the criteria one expects to use when awarding tuition assistance.

Basic Student Applicant Qualifications:

- Florida resident
- U.S. Citizen
- For use at an accredited Florida 4-year College, University, Junior College or Vocational-Technical School.
- It is preferable that the Scholarship be accepted in person by the recipient at the AAF Annual Convention held in Orlando; or at another appropriate venue in the recipient's district.
- Completed or will complete a High School College Preparatory Course of Studies in the current academic year
- Have a 3.0 or better GPA in the Junior and Senior years of High School;
- Score 1,000 or more on the SAT (or an ACT score of 21).
- **Exception to GPA & SAT Scores:** If exceptional circumstances dictate, the AIFF Scholarship Committee can award a scholarship to a student who does not meet the GPA or SAT criteria. Candidates for a needs-based scholarship must have taken, or be taking the college preparatory course of studies; have a 2.0 or better GPA in the Junior and Senior years of High School; score 800 or more on the SAT (or an ACT score of 18).

Judging Criteria: The AIFF Scholarship Committee is not limited to an exact set of criteria in evaluating nominees however; the following general guidelines will be utilized:

- 25% Security Alarm, Fire Alarm or Low Voltage industry essay
- 20% Academic Excellence
- 10% Personal Need Statement AND/OR Student Aid Report (SAR) with cover letter
- 10% Career Commitment
- 5% Work and Student Involvement
- 5% Community Involvement
- 5% Extra-Curricular Activities
- 5% Character References
- 5% Communication Skills
- 10% Industry Association Relationship

Essay: The subject of the Security Alarm, Fire Alarm or Low Voltage Industry Essay should deal with the value of systems (i.e. burglar, fire, CCTV, access control etc.) to the alarm owner, occupants, public safety personnel, the community, or society in general. The essay may focus on a single issue (i.e. The Value of Fire Alarm Systems in College Living Facilities) or broader related topics. An Example of that would be "How alarm systems (or the Alarm Industry) contribute to the safety, security and peace of mind of the community in present society". Or one might focus on a historical perspective. The Security Alarm, Fire Alarm or Low Voltage Industry Essay must be an original work by the applicant, and all sources cited in a "Work Cited" section at the end of the essay. The essay, once submitted, becomes the property of the AIFF and may be

printed in Industry publications with the writer's credit. The Essay will be judged for subject relevance, factual accuracy, creativity, interest and completeness of thought and proofs.

Career Commitment: The Scholarship Committee will consider favorably, an applicant whose course of study would lead to a career in the Security Alarm, Fire Alarm, Low Voltage, Public Safety Fire, Law Enforcement or related profession.

Community & Student Involvement: Involvement in school and community activities is important and will be thoroughly reviewed by the Selection Committee. Leadership positions, organizational memberships and school or community activities are important building blocks for future outstanding citizens. An applicant will provide to the Scholarship Committee a brief paragraph detailing his/her educational and civic background, future goals, and any other pertinent information. Applicants may be required to make a personal appearance before the Scholarship Committee in support of their written applications.

Personal Need: This is not required but if you desire to be eligible for the 10 points attributed to Personal Need, it is necessary that you either submit a copy of your most recent Student Aid Report (SAR) including the SAR cover letter AND/OR complete the Personal Need segment of the application relating how a scholarship for your college expenses would be beneficial to you and your family. Financial Information is confidential for review only by the AIFF Trustees and Director. An applicant's financial need will be thoroughly reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

References: Nominees must present the following references:

1. Two written references from appropriate secondary school administrators, teachers, or counselors.
2. One written reference from a person outside of the school environment (e.g., church official, civic organization leader) or an individual from the security or fire alarm industry or public safety fire or police departments.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE AIFF OFFICE BY DECEMBER 1 ANNUALLY TO BE AWARDED THE FOLLOWING SPRING DURING THE AAF CONVENTION VENUE.