



AFCEA
Central Maryland
Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association



Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)

Central Maryland Chapter – Education Foundation

c/o VP Scientific Education

ATTN: AFCEA Scholarships, P.O. Box 908, Savage, MD 20763

scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org

2018-2019 Freedom Scholarship Award

PURPOSE: AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter seeks to award STEM scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have overcome an adversity or hardship in their personal or family life and aid them in accomplishing their career goals.

AWARD: Each scholarship is an award of \$10,000, \$2,500 for each year of a four-year academic education. Scholarships will be presented to high school seniors in the Central Maryland area to be used to achieve education goals at the accredited school of their choice anywhere in the nation. All Freedom scholarships are STEM based. This scholarship is for a full-time student attending a four-year institution.

CRITERIA: Applicants must:

- Be a well-rounded, graduating high school senior who has overcome adversity/hardship in their personal or family life.
- Attend a public or private high school in Baltimore City or one of the following Central Maryland counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, or northern Prince George's.
- Be a U.S. Citizen.
- Have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, and a SAT math of at least 550.
- Be nominated by the applicant's school's counselor.
- Plan to enter a field of study supportive of national defense (i.e., systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications and electronics) and can apply their studies directly to the Intelligence Community, homeland security, or national defense objectives.
Please note: Students who pursue a degree in other science to include pre-med, pre-law, biology, environmental or any form of engineering not listed in this section are unlikely to be considered. If unsure, please email scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org to clarify.
- Stay in a field of study supportive of national defense for each of the applicant's four years and graduate.

MAINTENANCE: Scholarship recipients must maintain a collegiate GPA of at least 2.0 for the first year and 2.5 for all subsequent years to retain the scholarship for all four years. Recipients may change majors provided the new major is a science and engineering field of study supportive of national defense as indicated above. Recipients must submit a transcript for review at the end of each school year with a status form (to be sent to the recipient) to report how their studies are progressing to be eligible to receive the next payment as the scholarship is paid out over four years.

CEREMONIES Scholarship recipients will be notified in late February/early March, 2019. The AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter will invite recipients and their parents to an awards dinner honoring them in early May, 2019.

All interested students must submit their completed applications online by December 21, 2018.

APPLICATION: Student scholarship submissions must include **all** of the following: (Applicants will receive email from the Scholarship Committee chair as materials are received. If applicant does not get an email, reach out to the email address above.)

1. A completed application form **submitted online** at <https://centralmd.afceachapters.org/freedom-scholarship-application> which includes **general information** about the applicant (sample application details the info to be submitted.)
2. A **nomination letter** from the applicant's school counselor explaining why he/she feels the applicant deserves the scholarship. This letter may be emailed to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org.
3. A **750-1000 word essay** written by the applicant addressing: 1. How has your adversity impacted your ability to pursue college or your career goals and how would this scholarship help you overcome your adversity. 2. How your collegiate study* might prepare you for a career supporting intelligence, homeland security, or national defense objectives (*Acceptable fields of study include systems engineering, software engineering, math, cyber, information technology, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, physics, mechanical engineering, materials science, or engineering relating to IT, communications, and electronics.) (submit with on-line application).
4. A **resume** from the applicant detailing, at a minimum, accomplishments, work experience, and community involvement.
5. An **official, certified high school transcript** of completed courses and grades mailed **directly** from the high school to the address above or **emailed directly from the high school** to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org.
6. A copy of the applicant's SAT scores from the testing center. Email this report to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. AFCEA is not listed as a site that scores be sent to. Simply copy/scan the report and attach it in an email to the email address provided. The copy must include applicant's name.
7. **Two letters of recommendation:** one letter must be from an academic person (i.e., a school official – teacher, principal) and one letter must be from a non-academic person (i.e., a person outside of school – clergy, a person the applicant works/interns for, a volunteer leader, a coach). **Letters from school counselors are not acceptable.** Letters should be specific to this scholarship and not be letters that are for entry to a university or college. Letters may be emailed to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please be sure to the follow up with the persons who are emailing letters of recommendation to ensure that they have submitted them.

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