



AFCEA

Central Maryland Chapter – Education Foundation
ATTN: AFCEA Scholarships, P.O. Box 908, Savage, MD 20763
scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org

2020-2021 Freedom Scholarship

Who: This scholarship is for graduating high school seniors who want to pursue a STEM education followed by a career in the Defense, Intelligence, or Homeland Security communities.

What: Each scholarship is an award of \$10,000, \$2,500 for each year of a four-year academic education. Scholarships can be used to achieve education goals at the accredited school of their choice anywhere in the nation. All Freedom scholarships are STEM based. This is for a full-time student attending a four-year institution. AFCEA scholarship funds may be used **only for tuition, books, labs, and fees**. Multiple Freedom Scholarships are available.

Criteria: Applicants must:

- Be a well-rounded, graduating high school senior who has overcome an adversity or hardship in their personal or family life that has kept them from earning top grades.
- 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.
- 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; aerospace engineering; mechanical engineering; materials science; or engineering relating to IT, communications, or 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 sciences to include pre-med, pre-law, biology, environmental, or any form of engineering not listed in this section are unlikely to be considered for this scholarship.** 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. Recipient may change majors provided the new major is a science and engineering field of study supportive of national defense as indicated above. Recipient must submit a transcript for review at the end of each school year with a status form (to be sent to the recipient in June) to report how their studies are progressing to be eligible to receive the next payment as the scholarship is paid out over the four years of the degree program.

Ceremonies: Scholarship recipients will be notified in late February/early March, 2021. The AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter will invite recipients and their parents to an Awards Night reception and dinner honoring them in early May, 2021.

See next page for application information – what is required and the link to access the application on line.

APPLICATION: Student scholarship submissions must include **all** of the following: (Applicants

All interested students must submit their completed applications online by **December 18, 2020**

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 **submitted online** at (<https://centralmd.afceachapters.org/scholarship-application>) which includes **general information** about the applicant (sample application details the info to be submitted.)
2. 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, or electronics). (submit with on-line application).
3. A **resume** from the applicant detailing, at a minimum, accomplishments, work experience, and community involvement. (submit this as an attachment to the on-line application).
4. 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.
5. **Test scores:** A copy of the applicant's SAT or ACT scores from the testing center. If you do not have SAT or ACT scores and have PSAT scores or equivalent, please provide those scores. Please submit applicable AP test scores. While there is no requirement for minimum test scores this year due to coronavirus challenges, the Evaluation Committee will take test scores into consideration if they are provided. Please email the official report that you receive from the testing center for all test scores to be submitted to scholarships@centralmd.afceachapters.org. Please note that AFCEA is not listed as a site that scores be sent to, so you will have to scan the report and email or mail to the P.O. Box address above. Be sure that the report has your full name on it.
6. **Two letters of recommendation:** one letter must be from an academic person (i.e., a school official – teacher, principal) and the second letter must be from a non-academic person (i.e., a person outside of school – clergy, a person you work/intern 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 follow up with the persons who are emailing letters of recommendation to ensure that they have submitted them.

On-line application will be available October 1st.