

2026

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FOR CHILDREN OF FIRST RESPONDERS

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Dear Applicant:

The 2026 Houston Gulf Coast Alarm Association (HGCAA) Youth Scholarship Program offers up to \$2,500 in funds to children of active-duty law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical service personnel, people who put themselves in harm's way. This is for youth in the Houston and Gulf Coast area who are graduating from high school in 2026. The awards are made possible with the support of the members of our association.

This program rewards students who have excelled academically and are active in community service and extracurricular activities at their school.

The members of the HGCAA provide products and services that enhance public safety in every community in the region. We share a common mission with public safety officials to improve the quality of life for every citizen in the Houston and Gulf Coast Area.

One of the unique aspects of our scholarship program is the requirement for each applicant to submit an essay about how his/her parent or guardian helps secure his/her community. This essay is judged on grammar, content, and heart. It reinforces the important role these frontline workers play in our community.

I encourage you to apply for this scholarship and wish you the very best in your academic endeavors.

Sincerely,
Calvin Stewart
HGCAA President

Application Must Be Received by March 23, 2026

The HGCAA Youth Scholarship Program was created to promote goodwill between the Burglar and Fire Alarm Industry and first responders as part of our ongoing partnership with police, fire, and first aid officials. The program provides scholarship awards to their deserving sons or daughters who are attending a college, university, or trade school.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The winners are selected from the applicants and receive an award of up to \$2,500 to be used toward tuition at a college, university, or trade school. They will be guests at the HGCAA meeting in Houston in May of 2026 for award presentation.

The HGCAA will award THREE scholarships in 2026
1st Place Winner \$2,500.00
2nd Place Winner \$1,500.00
3rd Place Winner \$1,000.00

Rules and Eligibility Requirements

The student must be at least 15 years of age and not older than 20. He or she must be a graduating senior (in the 2025 – 2026 school year) who will receive a diploma from an accredited high school, located within the **Gulf Coast region** of Texas. He or she must be accepted for admission to an accredited college, university, or trade school in the fall of 2026.

Each eligible student must have a father, mother or legal guardian who is a full-time active-duty employee, and not on disability. The parent or guardian must be a member of a law enforcement agency, medical responder, or a full-time paid or volunteer member of a fire department located in the **Gulf Coast region** of Texas who responds first and regularly works the frontline to keep our community safe. The parent/guardian must regularly work the frontline, not just be employed by the first-responder agency. Is he/she a fireman, policemen, or a paramedic? **When someone calls 911, does your parent/guardian get dispatched to help?**

Each student must submit a completed and signed application. Failure to follow instructions can result in disqualification.

Students must submit:

- Proof of enrollment in high school via an official transcript and SAT/ACT scores
- Proof of acceptance to a college or university, or trade school (letter acceptable)
- Proof of parent's occupation (ID or supervisory letter acceptable)
- Essay (typed) (Place name on each page)
- 1 Letter of recommendation from counselor, teacher, or other agency regarding extracurricular activities

Awards are based on a combination of academic achievement, national test scores, extracurricular activities and the essay. All decisions are final. All materials become property of the HGCAA. Submission is permission to publish any and all essays.

Criteria for Awards

The HGCAA Youth Scholarship Program awards will be given based on the below noted criteria.

1. Grade Average	15 points
2. SAT/ACT Scores	5 points
3. Essay	60 points
4. Extracurricular activities	<u>20 points</u>
Total	100 points

**For Further Information Email HGCAA at
Treasurer@HGCAA.org**

Submission Instructions

1. Access applicant information at the following link:
[Scholarship Application](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrzJmrlc2bzbqYLX165aBuzJSxu-TqT2XwN5pkO5mZzw-6hg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=115948787597539632241) or copy and paste this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrzJmrlc2bzbqYLX165aBuzJSxu-TqT2XwN5pkO5mZzw-6hg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=115948787597539632241>
2. Write a 500-700 word essay which explains **"What it means to ME to have my parent or guardian involved in protecting our community."** Please be original, creative and use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. The essay should be about **you** as an individual and how your parent or guardian, being a member of the public safety community, has shaped your character. Be sure to include specific examples of how decisions you have made in your life reflect the example your parent has set.
3. For required supporting documents, please name the files in the following format:
 - a. LastName_Essay
 - b. LastName_Transcript
 - c. LastName_ACT_SAT Score Report
 - d. LastName_Employment Proof
 - e. LastName_Recommendation
 - f. LastName_Proof of Acceptance
 - g. LastName_[Media Release](#)
4. [Upload](#) each document or copy and paste this link for uploading:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RDIrjbSReILW9NLKex0MkD2OUN4hSciQ?usp=sharing>

5. Integrity Statement:

I affirm that the essay I have submitted is my own original work and:

☐ **I have not** received any assistance in its preparation, including peer review or editing, nor used any elements of artificial intelligence (AI).

OR

☐ **I have** received assistance in its preparation such as peer review and editing, but no elements of artificial intelligence (AI)

☐ **I have** used elements of artificial intelligence (AI).

Student Signature

Date

Students submitting applications to the HGCAA Youth Scholarship agree to the following:

1. All applications and writing samples become property of the HGCAA, its Chapters and local associations.
2. By my signature I attest that the information contained in the application and all supporting documents submitted under my name and email is true and accurate.
3. I agree to the terms and conditions of the HGCAA Youth Scholarship Program. I authorize the HGCAA, its Chapters and local associations to verify all aspects of this application with my high school or the employer of my parent or guardian. I agree to abide by all the terms and conditions of the HGCAA Youth Scholarship Rules.

Student Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date