



# FIRST RESPONDER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

## **I. Introduction:**

The Firefighter Arno Memorial Foundation was formed in honor of fallen Buffalo Firefighter Jason Arno, who heroically gave his life in the line of duty on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The mission of the FAM Foundation is to provide assistance, resources, and opportunities to first responders and their families in Western New York. To that end, the FAM Foundation has established the "FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship," with the goal of providing financial assistance to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of first responders in Western New York. This scholarship aims to support their pursuit of higher education at 2-year or 4-year colleges or universities.

## **II. Scholarship Details:**

**A. Scholarship Name:** FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship

**B. Scholarship Amount:** Scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts:

1. **First place:** \$10,000
2. **Second place:** \$5,000
3. **Third place:** \$2,500

**C. Number of Recipients:** Maximum (1) first place; minimum (1) second place; minimum (1) third place per academic year

**D. Eligibility Criteria:** To be eligible for the FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **First Responder Connection:** The applicant must be the son or daughter of a local first responder, including firefighters, police officers, EMT/paramedics, corrections officers, or 911 call takers/emergency services dispatchers. First responder must be employed in Western New York (Erie County, Niagara County, Orleans County, Cattaraugus County, Chautauqua County, Wyoming County, Allegany County).
2. **Academic Requirement:** Applicants must be high school seniors in the current academic year. The FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship does not require a minimum GPA. However, applicants must be academically eligible to enroll in college for the following academic year.
3. **Enrollment in College/University:** The applicant must have been accepted and plan to enroll in an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university for the upcoming academic year. Acceptance letter must be included with application.

**E. Application Requirements:** Applicants must submit the following documents along with their scholarship application (available at [www.FAMgives.org](http://www.FAMgives.org)):

1. Completed scholarship application form.
2. Official high school transcripts.
3. Acceptance letter from an accredited 2-year or 4-year college or university for the upcoming academic year.
4. Two letters of recommendation, with at least one from a teacher or school counselor.
5. A personal essay (500-750 words) describing their aspirations, the impact of their first responder parent's career on their life, and how they plan to contribute to their community or field of study.

### **III. Selection Process:**

The scholarship selection committee, comprised of five board members from the FAM Foundation, will review and evaluate all scholarship applications. Selection will be based on the applicant's academic achievements, letters of recommendation, personal essay, and financial need. Interviews may be conducted if necessary.

#### **IV. Award Disbursement:**

The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the recipient's chosen college or university to cover tuition, fees, books, or other educational expenses. The scholarship funds will not be transferable for personal use.

#### **V. Application Deadline:**

All scholarship applications and supporting documents must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **VI. Announcement of Recipients:**

The recipients of the FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship will be announced on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and they will be notified via email or phone.

#### **VII. How to Apply:**

Application instructions, including the scholarship application form and submission details, will be available on the FAM Foundation website at [www.FAMgives.org](http://www.FAMgives.org).

#### **VIII. Conclusion:**

The Firefighter Arno Memorial Foundation is committed to honoring the memory of fallen heroes like Jason Arno and supporting first responders and their families in Western New York. The FAM Foundation First Responder Family Scholarship not only provides financial assistance to deserving students, but also pays tribute to the sacrifices of first responders and their families. We look forward to continuing this scholarship program and supporting the educational pursuits of these exceptional individuals.

For any further inquiries or to discuss the implementation of the scholarship, please feel free to contact [info@famgives.org](mailto:info@famgives.org)