



AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarship Program

The Armed Forces Communications-Electronics Association (AFCEA) Central Florida Chapter plans to award/renew scholarships of up to \$1,000 in 2022 to outstanding students from Tampa Bay Area Schools, subject to the availability of funds. Scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled for the 2022/2023 academic year as full-time students in a course of study at an accredited four-year college or university that leads to a bachelor's degree in one of the Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) disciplines that will prepare the student for a professional career supporting AFCEA's focus on military communications, electronics, information technology, and intelligence systems. Distance-Learning programs are not eligible. Once awarded, scholarship winners may apply for renewal each year up to three additional years of undergraduate study. Previous scholarship winners must meet renewal criteria and apply for scholarship renewal. **Renewal of scholarships is dependent availability of funds and is not guaranteed.**

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens;
- Applicants may be graduating high school seniors or current undergraduates who have completed no more than three years of undergraduate study;
- Applicants must be accepted for enrollment during the 2022/2023 academic year in a full-time course of study at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States. *Enrollment in distance learning programs does not meet this requirement;*
- The applicant's course of study must lead to a bachelor's degree in one of the Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) disciplines that will prepare the student for a professional career supporting AFCEA's focus on military communications, electronics, information technology, and intelligence systems. Qualifying academic majors include, but are not limited to, electrical, computer, chemical, aerospace, or systems engineering; electronics; mathematics; computer science; physics; science or mathematics education; technology management; or management information systems. Majors directly related to the support of U.S. intelligence enterprises or national security with relevance to the mission of AFCEA will also be eligible however, pre-medicine is not a qualifying major;
- Eligible applicants include 1) residents of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Orange, or Brevard Counties, and/or 2) local active-duty military personnel assigned to commands within the Tampa Bay, Orlando, or Space Coast Regions, and/or 3) dependents of local active duty military personnel;
- Applicants who have received appointments to military academies, four-year ROTC scholarships, or other full-tuition scholarships from other organizations for the 2022/2023 academic year will not be eligible for AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarships.

Renewal Eligibility Criteria

- Recipients of AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarships may apply for renewal of their scholarships by submitting an application by **Apr/May** that demonstrates that they meet the following minimum criteria for renewal:

- Continued enrollment in the course of study for the initial major. Any change in major requires you to apply as a new applicant, except for general engineering majors that are declaring their specific area of engineering study as long as it is a qualifying major;
- The continued need for financial assistance in meeting the expenses of completing degree requirements. Applicants who have received appointments to military academies, four-year ROTC scholarships, or other full-tuition scholarships from another organization for the upcoming academic year will not be eligible for renewal of their AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarship;
- No more than one grade below B in any college-level STEM course; and
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 for all college-level courses completed as of the date of application. The application deadline will **not** be extended to meet the minimum GPA requirement.

Scholarship Application Procedures: The scholarship application, Letters of Recommendation, and transcripts can be submitted electronically (preferred) or by mail but must be received by the deadline of **October 1st**. Electronic submissions must include scanned signatures and the Letter of Recommendation must be emailed directly to epena@linchpinsolutions.com by the writer. The required contents of the application package are fully described in the following pages of this document. **Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be considered.** Ensure there is adequate postage on the envelope; AFCEA Central Florida Chapter will **NOT** pay postage due, and the application will be returned by the post office.

Selection: The AFCEA Central Florida Chapter will appoint a Scholarship Selection Committee composed of current Chapter members to review and rank applications. The Scholarship Committee Chairman will offer AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarships to applicants in the order of their ranking by the selection committee up to the availability of scholarship funding. Applicants will be asked to confirm their continued eligibility for an award, including disclosure of other scholarships received since their application. In the event that primary selectees do not confirm eligibility for an award, scholarships will be offered to alternate selectees. The Scholarship Committee Chair will notify scholarship winners of their selection no later than 10 days following scholarship selection panel's decision.

Award Procedures: Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the scholarship winner in the form of a check drawn on the AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Education Fund account after a receipt has been signed acknowledging that the money will be used for educational purposes only. Presentation of the scholarships will be at an AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Monthly Luncheon or at the Academic Awards ceremonies at the individual's School.

For Further Information: Contact Mr. Eddie Pena at (831) 917-0073 or epena@linchpinsolutions.com or Mr. Will Ceglar at (803) 236-5850 or william.ceglar@nextechsol.com.

Application Procedures

Complete the following forms included in this document:

- Privacy Statement co-signed by Applicant and Parent (if applicable)
- Applicant Information Form – **Must be legible**
- Scholastic Standing Form (Completed/Signed by School Counselor/Advisor)
- Applicant’s Personal Statement (200-250 words)
- Financial Need Considerations

Attach the following additional documents:

- Graduating high school seniors – one (1) letter of recommendation from a STEM teacher either submitted directly to AFCEA Central Florida (mail or electronically with scanned signature) or sealed in an envelope, signed by the writer across the seal and delivered with the scholarship application. Photocopies, Unsigned, or Letters of Recommendation submitted incorrectly will not be accepted.
- Current undergraduate students including those applying for renewal– one (1) letter of recommendation from a professor in the discipline of your declared STEM major either submitted directly to AFCEA Central Florida (mail or electronically with scanned signature) or sealed in an envelope, signed by the writer across the seal and delivered with the scholarship application. Photocopies, Unsigned, or Letters of Recommendation submitted incorrectly will not be accepted.
- Letter of acceptance or proof of enrollment from the college or university for the upcoming academic year. The Scholastic Standing form will be used as “proof of enrollment” for continuing college students.
- **Official** transcripts reflecting academic performance for a minimum of the two most recently completed academic years (one year for renewal applications). Transcripts must be submitted with the scholarship application via email or mail at the below contact information. **It must be an official transcript.**

Submit Applications Electronically to: epena@linchpinsolutions.com and william.ceglar@nextechsol.com

Applications received after October 1st will not be considered.

Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Please ensure the application is legible and complete with adequate postage.

AFCEA Central Florida Chapter will NOT pay postage due for the application package.



Application for AFCEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarship Program

PRIVACY STATEMENT: The personal information requested herein, including attached financial need forms and personal statement(s) will be used to evaluate the applicant's eligibility for scholarships to be awarded by the AFCEA Central Florida Chapter. The information will be maintained by the AFCEA Central Florida Chapter and will be released only to individuals who serve on the Chapter's Scholarship Selection Committee. Disclosure of the information requested is voluntary; however, failure to provide all of the requested information may hinder evaluation of the application and reduce the likelihood of a scholarship award to the applicant.

I agree not to contest the AFCEA Central Florida Chapter's Scholarship Selection Committee's choice of scholarship winners for the Chapter's Scholarship Program. I affirm that all information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and that I have read and understand the privacy statement above.

Signature of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Parent: _____ **Date:** _____

A parent's signature is not required if the applicant is over the age of 18 and was **not** claimed as a dependent on a parent's previous year's tax return. Proof may be required.

Community Service Honors And Awards

Award/Recognition	Presented by	Year

Extra-Curricular Activities

Organization	Office Held	From mo/yr)	To (mo/yr)

Work Experience: List your work experience, whether part-time, vacation, or other during the past three years. (use additional sheet if required)

From (mo/yr)	To (mo/yr)	Name of Business	Your Job	Hrs/WK

Other noteworthy achievements to be considered by the Selection Committee

Academic Standing Information

(To be completed by the school Counselor/Academic Advisor from the most recent School year)

Applicant's Name: _____

School: _____

Class Standing: Upper _____ % of total class

Number of students in class: _____

GPA (including basis, i.e., 4.0 or 5.0 system) _____

SAT Scores (not required for renewal candidates): Math _____ Verbal _____ Writing _____

Counselor's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Is the student applicant accepted or enrolled for the most recent academic year in a course of study at a four-year accredited college or university that will lead to a bachelor's degree. Yes _____ No _____

Declared Academic Major: _____

College or University: _____

Counselor's Signature: _____

Applicant's Personal Statement

In 250-500 words, discuss the factors and influences that have led you to consider an academic major in the sciences or engineering disciplines and your reasons for pursuing a career in your chosen field.

Financial Need Considerations

1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Parents of applicants dependent upon their parents for financial support and educational financing provide the following information:

A. Parents' Combined Adjusted Gross Income from previous year's Federal Income Tax return(s):

B. Names/ Ages/Academic Status of Siblings claimed as dependents on parents' tax return (Please do not include the applicant).

Name	Age	School & Grade Level for most recent Academic Year

C. Scholarships and grants received by the **applicant** for the previous two academic years. Please do not list loans or any forms of financial aid that must be repaid.

Title of Grant/Scholarship	Type (Grant or Scholarship)	Renewable? Y or N	Amount per Year

D. Estimated Educational Expenses for all College Age Dependents including the applicant, listed by dependent.

Name	Expenses for the upcoming Academic Year

3. Applicants who are financially independent (i.e., not claimed as a dependent on another person's Federal Income Tax return) provide the following information.

A. Adjusted Gross Income from previous year's Federal Income Tax Return: _____

B. Names/ Ages/Relationships of dependents claimed on applicant's previous year's Federal Income Tax return

Name	Age	Relationship

C. Scholarships and grants received by the applicant for the previous two academic years. Please do not list loans or any forms of financial aid that must be repaid. _____

D. Applicant's Estimated Educational Expenses for the academic year: _____

4. You may provide a brief statement (200 words or less) of additional financial considerations that you wish to bring to the attention of the Scholarship Selection Committee.