



MASONIC YOUTH MINUTES

The Scholarship Edition



This publication is provided by the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation for review and distribution at Lodge Meetings for members with college students. It is also valuable for sharing with students who are eligible to apply for PMYF Scholarships. Eligibility requirements appear below.

Submission Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship from the Educational Endowment Fund of the PA Masonic Youth Foundation, an applicant must include proof of one of the following:

- A member in good standing of a Pennsylvania Masonic Lodge
- A child, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild, sibling or dependent (IRS definition) of a Pennsylvania Mason (or one who was in good standing at the time of his death)
- A present or former member in good standing of one of the Pennsylvania Masonic-related youth organizations
- A resident or graduate of the Pennsylvania Masonic Homes for Children



Here are some other guidelines that need to be met to qualify for a scholarship:

- The applicant must be a High School graduate or a High School Senior who is pursuing higher education
- Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA to be considered
- PMYF scholarships are only applicable to undergraduate tuition and fees

Do you or someone you know meet the eligibility requirement? Continue reading to find out all of the scholarship opportunities you or the student you know qualify for. The application deadline for the PMYF scholarship application is March 15th. Review the **Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide** posted on the PMYF Webpage at <https://pmyf.org> to see which of the over 60 listed scholarships you may be eligible for.

The selection process is very competitive. It is important that every section of the application be fully and thoughtfully completed. All the requested information is important - but please **do not** include any additional, unrequested attachments like letters of reference.

Visit the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation at www.pmyf.org



Show Me the Money



In 1990, the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation introduced the scholarship program, and for each year since then, scholarships have been awarded to deserving students. In the 31 years since the start of the program, over \$2,000,000.00 has been awarded.

Last year, \$152,500.00 was given out in awards to over 50 students. These included five recurring scholarships (two at four years each; one at three years; and two at two years each) ranging from \$2,500.00 to \$4,000.00 per year. In addition to the recurring scholarships that have been an important expansion of the program since 2007, in 2021, the remaining \$104,500.00 was given out in single-year scholarship awards. The amount of these awards ranged

from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 - so, yes, we're talking real money when we are discussing the PMYF Scholarship program.

Students who are approved to receive recurring scholarships do not need to reapply each year; they need to provide the transcripts of their completed year in May as proof of a GPA of 3.0 or better. All, however, are encouraged to apply with a current year application because many continue to make the grade and may receive an additional single-year scholarship award.

A final note, PMYF scholarship checks are made payable to the student and the institution of higher education and will be sent to the students in June of 2022.



Pointers for Essay Completion

There are two essays that must be completed as a part of the PMYF application. The first one is a Personal Goals Essay, and the second one changes from year to year; for 2022, the second essay, the Personal Experiences Essay, is: *"Pick one experience in your own life and explain how it has influenced your development."*

Every essay is carefully reviewed by the grading committee, so the student will want to take this part of the application as seriously as all the other parts. Pointers for this include: Use complete sentences and be grammatically correct. Strive for quality, not quantity. And be thorough - personal goals should need to also include lifetime goals. What college? What major course of study? What is the preferred occupation upon graduation? Where would a post-collegiate job be found? Is marriage in the future? How about a family? What social and community activities are of interest? Sure! That's a lot to squeeze into 100 words - but, again, this is about quality, not quantity. Smart writing is important.



For the Personal Experiences Essay, pick one and only one experience. Multiple experiences indicate an inability to follow the instructions. More is not better! Spend several sentences explaining the experience, then build a bridge of explanation that further describes how this influence has been valuable to overall development. Another good piece of advice - have someone proof read what was written. A second set of eyes can be invaluable to ensuring that the essay is well done and meaningful.



New Scholarships Available

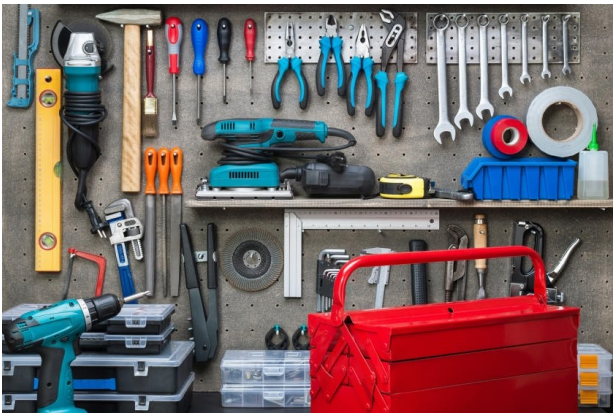
PMYF is pleased to announce the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania First Responder Scholarship, awarded in honor of R.W. Past Grand Master Thomas Gamon, IV. This scholarship is for a minimum of \$2,000.00 and a maximum of \$2,500.00 and is to be used for tuition, fees, and program required equipment. Eligible students must file a complete Grand Lodge First Responders Scholarship Application which differs from the normal PMYF Scholarship Application, and is available upon request from the PA Masonic Youth Foundation.



Also, thanks to the generosity of William Fustos, an Emergency Scholarship Fund has been established in memory of his father, Andrew Fustos, Jr., and is designed to assist students who find themselves needing assistance to pay for special educational costs not covered by traditional financial assistance but are necessary for the student to continue his or her education. For complete details on this special scholarship please contact Dave Berry, Assistant Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation at dwberry@pmyf.org or by phoning 1-800-266-8424 X4.



Trade School Scholarships on the Way



The Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation recognizes that there is a growing need to provide scholarship funds for post-high school students who are furthering their education at a technical, trade, or vocational school. These important, specialized jobs are in great demand and the educational costs can be overwhelming for students who need to purchase the tools and equipment necessary to learn a specialized trade or vocation. In order to meet the needs of these non-traditional students, the PMYF is developing a new and exciting expansion to the scholarship program, with an anticipated launch date of March 15, 2022.

What this means is that as the deadline for the submission of applications for the traditional PMYF scholarships come to an end for another year, the Trade and Vocational Scholarship Program will be launched with a planned application submission deadline of September 15, 2022. The first scholarships awarded through this new program will be in October this year. An initial allocation of \$25,000.00 in scholarship funds will be available to launch this new program.



Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide

For complete details on the PA Masonic Youth Foundation Scholarships, and nearly 60 other scholarship opportunities, please refer to the Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide that is available at: <https://pmyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MSRG2022.pdf>



2021 Census - Some Interesting Facts

After the scholarship applications are reviewed and scored each year a Census Fact Sheet is prepared for the Scholarship Committee and the PMYF Board of Directors to review. Some of the information from 2021 included:

Total Submissions in 2021 = 97

Freshmen = 52 Sophomores = 15

Juniors = 16 Seniors = 14

Rainbow Girls = 9

DeMolays = 7

Job's Daughters = 6

35 of Pennsylvania's 57 Counties had one or more submissions

Allegheny & Montgomery Counties had 10 each

Lancaster, Luzerne, Lycoming and Westmoreland Counties had 5 each

York County had 4

The Essay Question was to List a Book that had Affected the Student & Why
The Bible, "Perks of Being a Wallflower" & "To Kill a Mockingbird" were selected by 3 students each
"American Sniper," "How to Win Friends & Influence People," & "Fahrenheit 451" had 2 each



Five Things to Help You Fill Out the Application

Here are several considerations that will help you fill out the PMYF Scholarship Application:

1. Please make sure that everything is attached to the application. This includes transcripts and other essentials that will help you during the process. If we didn't need it, we wouldn't have asked for it on the application.
2. Make sure that all information is filled out to the best of your ability. There may be some areas that don't apply, and a non-applicable is acceptable, but do the best you can to answer all questions.
3. Take some time to really think about the essay questions. Our graders look for well thought out answers to all of the questions and enjoy hearing your stories.
4. List all of the academic societies and extracurricular programs you have been part of. You may not think this is important, but the more involved you are in school and its programs, the more impressive the application looks.
5. Make sure the application arrives on time, with everything attached that is needed. March 15 is the latest that an application can be postmarked, and our evaluators do not track down missing information.

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