Illinois Sheriffs' Association

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ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOC. ANNOUNCES ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, *AND ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR STUDENTS STUDYING CRIMINAL JUSTICE/LAW ENFORCEMENT.*

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association announces that it will be awarding over $58,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2024-2025 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books, and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois, full-time. Online learning is acceptable.

As part of our continuing commitment to public service, and the support of young people and education, the County Sheriffs of Illinois will collect, review, vote and tally winners after the March 15, 2024, deadline for this year's ISA Scholarship Winners.

This past year, 117 awards were distributed to deserving students to financially assist their 2023-2024 education costs at any accredited college, university, or trade school in the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) established our scholarship program in 1979, and for 45 years, the ISA has awarded scholarships to students who demonstrate outstanding scholastic, extra-curricular and character qualifications. Since that time, this program has continued as a meaningful expression of the Sheriffs' confidence in and respect for education, training, and the importance of investing in our youth.

"This year, our Citizen Membership Program is helping to provide these students with more than $58,000 in financial aid and an opportunity to make a positive contribution to society!" – *Sheriff Andrew Hires,* 2023 *ISA Board President.* A special thanks goes out to each of our committed Members for their continued donations which help make this and other ISA programs possible!

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association is a 501c3, and our Scholarship Program is dependent on the generous donations from our Citizen Members. All 102 County Sheriff's Offices are eligible to grant a scholarship from the ISA Scholarship Program. The number of scholarships that a county can give out varies from 1,2, 3, or 4 and is based on the number of ISA Citizen Members within their county. Most of the counties are eligible to give out 1, but larger counties such as Cook and DuPage can award 3 or 4.

New this year, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association received an anonymous donation, in memorial, to be set aside and enhance our existing College Scholarship Program. These funds will allow the ISA to award one student from the list of winners, *whose field of academic study is in Criminal Justice or Law Enforcement*, an additional $500.00 from this designated donation account. This award will happen annually until those funds are exhausted.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex, or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents.

- Scholarships must be utilized at institutions of higher learning **within the State of Illinois**

- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2024-2025 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's office or on the ISA Website https://www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/. Students must complete the application, answer the essay question, and return all documentation to the Sheriff's office in their permanent county of residence by March 15, 2024 (must be postmarked by this date). A directory of Sheriffs offices is available on the ISA website at https://www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory/. For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center, or college financial aid office.

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