

2026-2027 PEACEKEEPERS Scholarship Application for Law Enforcement or Military Dependents

Deadline: June 1, 2026

Please type or print your answers. If application is illegible, it will be returned to you.					
1.	Last Name: _____	First Name: _____			
2.	Mailing Address: Street: _____ City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____				
3.	Daytime Telephone Number: _____				
4.	Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____				
5.	Email (One you check frequently): _____				
6.	In the Fall of 2026, I will be attending college as a: (Circle one) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Master's Level Other: Technical School Student Medical School Student Nursing School Student (year _____)				
7.	I will be attending the following school in the Fall 2026: _____ <i>Winners are required to provide written proof of full-time student enrollment by September 15, 2026.</i>				
8.	Grade Point Average (GPA): _____ (On a 4.0 scale) <i>Attach proof of GPA.</i>				
9.	ACT Score: _____ or SAT Score: _____ <i>Please provide a copy of your score sheet if testing was required for school admittance. (Freshman only)</i>				
10.	Name and city of high school attended: _____				Graduation Year
11.	List the name of any college you have attended. (If you have not attended college yet, go on to question 12.)	Year Began	Year Ended	Year Graduated (If applicable)	Type of Degree Received (If applicable)
		A. _____			
		B. _____			
	C. _____				
12.	What specialty/major do you plan to study as you continue your education?				

13.	List expenses you expect to incur per semester or quarter:		
	A.	Tuition: Amount: \$	
	B.	Books: Amount: \$	
	C.	Room & Board: Amount: \$	
	D.	Other Expenses: Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
	E.	Other Expenses: Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
Comments:			
14.	List other financial assistance you will receive per semester or quarter:		
	A.	Personal: Amount: \$	
	B.	Other Scholarship(s): Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
	C.	Grants: Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
	D.	Student Loan(s): Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
	E.	Other Financial Resources: Amount: \$	Describe below under comments
Comments:			
Use an additional sheet if you need more room to list financial information requested in items 13 & 14.			
15.	Do your parents/guardians still claim you as a dependent for tax purposes? Yes ___ No ___		
Father/Guardian Name:		Military: Yes ___ No ___	Law Enforcement: Yes ___ No ___
Father/Guardian Employer & Occupation:			Active ___ Retired ___ Deceased ___
Address:			
Mother/Guardian Name:		Military Yes ___ No ___	Law Enforcement: Yes ___ No ___
Mother/Guardian Employer & Occupation:			Active ___ Retired ___ Deceased ___
Address:			
Total number of dependents (number claimed on taxes) in household, including yourself:			
16.	What are your educational and professional goals and objectives? (You can attach your resume if it has this information.)		

17.	List your academic honors, awards, and membership activities while in high school or college: (You can attach your resume if it has this information.)
18.	List your community service activities, hobbies, outside interests, and extracurricular activities: (You can attach your resume if it has this information.)
19.	If selected as a Scholarship winner, may Peacekeepers and the Illinois Sheriffs' Association publish your name and/or picture as a scholarship recipient? Yes ____ No ____

ESSAY QUESTION: *(please attach your essay)*

The New Sentinel: Military Mobilization, Domestic Sovereignty, and the Future of the Fourth Amendment

The United States is navigating an increasingly complex intersection of national security, immigration enforcement, and constitutional protections. In recent years, federal authorities have expanded the use of military personnel and federally mobilized assets within domestic borders to address illegal entry and security concerns—sometimes in direct conflict with state and local leadership.

This evolving dynamic raises fundamental questions about the limits of executive power, the role of the military in civilian life, and the durability of constitutional safeguards during times of heightened national concern.

Your task is to research, analyze, and define a clear “legal and ethical boundary” for the use of military force on United States soil.

Essay Requirements:

Your essay must be a **minimum of 3,000 words and should not exceed 6,000 words** and present a well-reasoned, evidence-based argument that addresses the following:

1. The Legal Foundation

- Examine the historical purpose and modern interpretation of the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878.
- Analyze the scope and evolution of the Insurrection Act and other statutory exceptions that allow military involvement in domestic affairs.
- Evaluate how these laws are being applied—or challenged—in today’s national security environment.

2. The Conflict of Jurisdiction

- Analyze the constitutional tension between federal authority and state sovereignty, with particular attention to the Tenth Amendment.
- Explore real or hypothetical scenarios in which federal military action overrides the authority of governors or municipal leaders.
- Discuss the implications of this conflict for American federalism and local governance.

3. The Human and Civil Rights Impact

- Evaluate how an increased military presence within U.S. borders affects the application of the Fourth Amendment.
- Consider whether certain regions risk becoming de facto “security zones” where traditional civil liberties are diminished.

- Address the broader societal impact of military enforcement on civilian populations, including issues of trust, accountability, and perceived legitimacy.

4. Defining the Line: Your Policy Proposal

This is the most critical component of your essay.

You must:

- Clearly define where the boundary should exist between national defense and civilian governance.
- Propose a structured set of “Rules of Engagement” governing the use of military forces domestically.
- Ensure your framework protects:
 - National security interests
 - Constitutional rights (particularly the Fourth Amendment)
 - The integrity of state and local authorities

Your proposal should be practical, enforceable, and grounded in both legal precedent and ethical reasoning.

The founders of the United States established a system designed to prevent the concentration of power while preserving order and security. Today, that balance is being tested in new and complex ways.

Where should the line be drawn?

Your answer should not only reflect what the law *is*, but what it *ought to be*.

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also agree that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the Peacekeepers scholarship program.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ Date: _____

Applications must be RECEIVED by June 1, 2026!

Remember all applications are to be submitted to the Sheriff's Office in your County.
DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION.

2026-2027 Peacekeepers Scholarship

Eligibility

There are no restrictions based on race, age, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents.
- Must plan to attend an accredited institution of higher learning
- Students must be enrolled as **full-time** during the 2026-2027 school year (excluding summer session).
- Scholarship applicants must be dependents of active-duty or retired Law Enforcement or Law Enforcement killed in the line of duty or dependents of active-duty military, active Military Reserve, active National Guard or a member killed in action.
- Immediate family members of the Sheriff are not eligible; however, families of sheriff's office employees may apply
- Previous Peacekeepers Scholarship recipients may reapply and will be considered alongside other applicants within their county
- If for any reason, a recipient relinquishes a scholarship, that scholarship will be granted to an alternate from the same county which was selected by the Peacekeepers Committee.

Please read all instructions carefully. Failure to comply with application requirements will result in disqualification.

How to Apply

Applications are available at local Sheriff's offices or at www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/.

To apply:

- Fill out the application
- Complete the written essay
- Return all materials to the Sheriff's Office in your county of permanent residence

DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by June 1, 2026

A directory of Sheriff's Offices is available at: www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory. Applicants must be eligible for admission to the institution listed on their application

*****Please note: Do not send completed applications to the ISA Office*****

Distribution of Monies

The scholarship funds will be paid **directly** to the school on behalf of the recipient. The total scholarship award will be divided as follows: 1/2 credited to the fall semester and 1/2 credited to the spring semester. Funds cannot be used for summer courses and must be used during the 2026-2027 academic year. If you are selected as recipient of a Peacekeepers Scholarship, you will be notified in writing by the ISA office and/or your local County Sheriff. The ISA office must be contacted by the school with written enrollment verification by **September 15, 2026**, scholarship checks will **not** be issued until such notice has been received. **If you do not submit your enrollment verification to the ISA Office by September 15, 2026, your scholarship will be declined and awarded to the alternate. No exceptions.**

Enrollment verifications should be sent to: megan@ilsheriff.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *Scholarship funds are intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and fees. No funds can be used for housing or any other expenses incurred. Funds must be used during the regular school year and cannot be used for summer courses. Books must be purchased from a learning institution campus bookstore and directly billed through that institution's bursar's office. If tuition is paid in full by any other scholarship, grant or other financial aid the scholarship cannot be used to reduce the other funding.*

Scholarship winners will be announced on June 15th!