

**MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Policy - Procedure Statement

PURPOSE

Enforcement of the law in a democratic society is a complex task. The ability of a peace officer to render effective service responsive to the public's need depends heavily upon job knowledge and skills. The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association recognizes the importance of pre-entry training to the accomplishment of these requisites. It also recognizes that some candidates need outside help in meeting the costs of such training, as well as, those candidates who excel academically.

Members of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association give recognition to the lack of financial assistance available to students attending the mandated peace officer's skills course or a two/four year law enforcement degree school. This statement sets forth a policy decision reached by the members and the procedures to implement the policy.

POLICY

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association has determined that education is a fundamental core of our Association. The Membership of this Association will provide financial support through the form of student scholarships to a student who is not POST licensed, is currently enrolled in a mandated POST Skills Program, or is in the second year of a two year law enforcement degree program, or to any student who is in the third or fourth year of a four year law enforcement degree program. This policy shall remain in effect consistent with funding to support this program.

PROCEDURES

1. Applications and disbursement of funds:
 - a. The Scholarship Committee of the Association will only accept applications processed through the County Sheriff in the home county of residence of the applicant. Applications submitted directly to the Committee by candidates, without channeling through their Sheriff, will not be considered.
 - b. It is the candidate's obligation to have the Sheriff of the candidate's home county endorse the application and provide background information as to the candidate's good character and general citizenship qualities.
 - c. The deadline for submission of applications is **October 15th** of each year. Scholarships can be expected to be awarded by **December 31st** of the same year.
 - d. The Scholarship Committee in making its selection of awards, intends to achieve representation from all geographical areas of the state.
 - e. The amount of the awards may cover part or all of the course costs, but in no case will they exceed \$600.00 per candidate.

- f. Payments connected with the awards will be made to the institution, not the candidate. (Both the institution's name and the student's name will appear on the check, requiring each party's signature.)

2. Student Criteria:

- a. Candidates are required to demonstrate their academic achievements. Applicants must submit an official transcript from each school attended and a completed MSA application form. **Transcripts printed from a website will NOT be accepted.**
- b. General behavior and attitude will also receive close scrutiny. Related factors may be partially revealed though the required endorsement by the Sheriff. A complete background check of the candidate will be made by the submitting Sheriff and the application will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
- c. Scholarships are only available to students who are currently enrolled in one of the following three categories:
 - 1. Mandated POST Skills Program
 - 2. The second year of a Two Year Law Enforcement Program
 - 3. The third or fourth year of a Four Year College Criminal Justice Program

APPLICANT MUST ATTACH OFFICIAL SCHOLASTIC GRADE RECORDS TO THIS APPLICATION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION. **TRANSCRIPTS PRINTED FROM A WEBSITE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**