



# **Pinellas County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #43**

## **2026 Scholarship Qualifications and Guidelines**

**The Pinellas County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #43 will award two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 annually. These scholarships are presented to graduating high school and/or vocational school students who will attend or continue enrollment in an accredited institute of higher learning during the 2026 academic year. Law enforcement academies are included. All institutions must be located within the United States of America.**

### **Eligibility Requirements and General Guidelines:**

To apply for a scholarship, applicants must be the child of a member of the Pinellas County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #43. The member parent must be in good standing for a minimum of two (2) years prior to the scholarship application filing date.

Both scholarships are reserved for graduating high school seniors or those currently enrolled in continuing education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Applicants must provide proof of enrollment or acceptance to the institution they are attending or planning to attend. Applicants must also provide evidence of a cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

No scholarship recipient may receive more than four (4) scholarships from the Pinellas County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #43.

### **Essay Requirement:**

- All scholarship applicants are required to author an original essay on the assigned subject.
- The essay must be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 600 words in length.
- Essays will be evaluated based on content, grammar, spelling, and overall appearance.
- Handwritten essays will not be accepted.
- Use of Wikipedia, ChatGPT, AI, or similar sources will result in disqualification.
- Any essay found to be plagiarized, even in part, will be disqualified. Applicants who submit plagiarized essays will not be eligible to reapply for a scholarship from Lodge #43.

- The applicant's signature on all submitted documents serves as certification that the essay is the applicant's own original work.
- Applicants must not place their name or any other identifying information on the essay itself. Identifying information must appear only on the application. The FOP Lodge #43 President or his or her designee will assign a corresponding number to each essay for grading purposes.

### **Submission Requirements:**

- The completed scholarship application and essay must be submitted together to be eligible for consideration.
- Any submission that is incomplete will not be considered for a scholarship.
- All submitted applications and essays become the property of FOP Lodge #43.
- The scholarship application will be available on the FOP Lodge #43 webpage.
- Essays will be judged by a three-person panel designated by the board of FOP Lodge #43. The identities of the applicants will be removed prior to review.
- Deadlines and Mailing Information
- All application materials must be postmarked no later than **April 25, 2026, by 5:00 PM**. Any packet received after the cutoff date and time will be dismissed.
- The final deadline for all scholarships is **April 30, 2026**.

### **Completed application packets must be mailed to:**

**FOP Lodge 43 Scholarship Committee  
50 Commerce Drive  
Largo, Florida 33770**

### **Notification and Final Decisions:**

Scholarship recipients will be notified by phone and mail. All decisions of the Scholarship Committee are final.

## **THE ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2026 IS:**

**HOW HAS HAVING A PARENT IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPACTED  
YOUR LIFE AND SHAPED WHO YOU ARE TODAY?**



**Application Deadline: April 30, 2026**

**Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 43 Scholarship Application**

Name (Full) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number (Last Four Digits Only) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / FOP Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Law Enforcement Agency Represented \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College, University, or Law Enforcement Academy Accepted To and Declared Major (if applicable)

**On a separate sheet of paper, list any special recognitions you have received for excellence in school or community service. List any school or community activities in which you have participated or are currently participating.**

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_