

Tab 10-Scholarship for Graduating Seniors of Veterans

A. Administration of the Scholarship

1. The Ashtabula Veterans Service Commission (AVSC) is committed to building, maintaining, and collaborating positive relationships with the local businesses, other agencies, veterans, and their families. Inserting funds back into the community in support of veteran families is one means of achieving these positive relationships.
2. As part of its outreach and advertising initiative to promote awareness of veteran services, the AVSC may annually award one scholarship to a graduating senior, who is a dependent of an eligible veteran, from each of the nine high schools within Ashtabula County. Those schools are as follows:

Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus	1565 State Route 167 Jefferson, OH 44047
Conneaut High School	381 Mill St Conneaut, OH 44030
Edgewood High School	2428 Blake Rd Ashtabula, OH 44004
Geneva High School	1301 South Ridge Rd E Geneva, OH 44041
Grand Valley High School	111 Grand Valley Ave West Orwell, OH 44076
Jefferson High School	207 W Mulberry St Jefferson, OH 44047
Lakeside High School	6600 Sanborn Rd Ashtabula, OH 44004
Pymatuning Valley High School	5571 US-6 Andover, OH 44003
St. John's High School	7911 Depot Rd Ashtabula, OH 44004

NOTE: Dependent children of employees of the AVSC are not eligible to receive this scholarship, as their application would be considered a conflict of interest to the program.

B. Scholarship Requirements

1. Graduate/Applicant must be a biological, adopted, or step child of the veteran (parent)
2. Veteran must be an eligible veteran in accordance with Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Attorney General's definition of a veteran, and verified as a veteran within the AVSC office.
 - a) Eligibility requirements
 - Character of Discharge is Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions

- Veteran is a resident of Ashtabula County
 - Reservists and National Guardsmen must have served for purposes other than training, under federal orders and have a DD Form 214 from that period of service with a character of discharge that is Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions
 - AVSC must have proof of dependency on file. This can be achieved by providing a birth certificate or legal adoption documents. For step children, marriage documents and birth certificates shall be on file with the AVSC.
3. Current report card showing a grade point average of 3.0 or higher
 4. Recommendation letter by school faculty member on school letterhead
 5. Applicant is required to write a 500-word essay on a topic specified by the AVSC during the year of the award.
 - a) Essay will be typed and signed by the graduate for legibility.
 - b) Essay must be original in content. The use of AI technology will be grounds for termination of eligibility for the scholarship.
 6. Proof of higher education (traditional or trade school) shall be provided to the AVSC prior to distribution of the scholarship.
 - a) Recipient may provide one of the following items as proof of higher education:
 - Enrollment Verification Letter
 - Tuition Receipt or Bill
 - Class Schedule
 - Student ID Card
 7. All eligibilities and documents in support of the scholarship must be submitted to the Attention of the AVSC Executive Director no later than the first business day of April.

C. Scholarship Selection

1. AVSC will verify applicant meets eligibility criteria prior to bringing the application before the Board of Commissioners. Any applicant not meeting eligibility for the scholarship will be notified by phone in case more documentation is required.
2. AVSC Board of Commissioners will review all eligible applicants during Work Session prior to the second Board Meeting of April (third Wednesday). The Board will vote on one scholarship recipient per school during that meeting.
3. Scholarship amount will be determined based on the following considerations:
 - a) AVSC will set aside \$4,500 in a scholarship fund each year as part of the annual advertising budget. The minimum award will be \$500 per recipient.
 - b) AVSC will accept donations from the Ashtabula community to be applied to the scholarship fund each year. These donations will increase the total scholarship value per student.
 - c) The scholarship fund will be divided by nine schools. If the AVSC does not receive applications from each of the nine eligible schools, the fund will be divided by the number of schools represented in that year's applicant pool.
4. AVSC representatives will attend each school's Senior Award Night to deliver a check to the named recipient.



Scholarship for Graduating Seniors of Veterans

Applicant Information:

- Full Name of Scholarship Applicant:
- Date of Birth:
- Phone Number:
- Email Address:

Veteran Parent/Guardian:

- Full Name of Veteran Parent/Guardian:
- Relationship to Applicant: ☒ Parent ☐ Legal Guardian
- Branch of Service:
- Dates of Service: To Discharge Character
- Last Four Digits of SSN (for verification):
- Contact Phone Number:

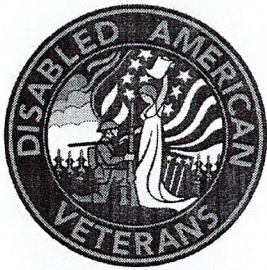
Confirmation of Veteran Status

☐ I confirm that the above-named veteran is currently registered and verified with the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission.

☐ I authorize the AVSC to verify this veteran's status for the purpose of scholarship eligibility.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Veteran/Parent: _____ Date: _____



Essay Requirement: What Patriotism Means to Me

As part of your application for the AVSC Scholarship Program, you are required to submit a personal essay on the topic of patriotism. This essay is your opportunity to reflect on what patriotism means to you and how it has shaped your values, actions, or aspirations.

Essay Guidelines:

- **Length:** No more than 500 words
- **Content:**
 - Your essay **must incorporate personal experience(s)** that illustrate your understanding or expression of patriotism.
 - These experiences may include family traditions, community service, military connections, civic engagement, or moments that inspired pride in your country.
- **Originality:**
 - **Do not use artificial intelligence (AI)** or automated writing tools to generate or assist with your essay.
 - Your submission must be **entirely your own work**, written in your own voice.

Submission Instructions:

- Type your essay and print a physical copy.
- Include your full name and date at the top of the page.
- Submit your completed essay in person along with all other required application materials.
- **Deadline:** All materials must be received no **later than April 1st.**
- **Submit to:**
 - **Attention: Executive Director**
Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission
1709 E. Prospect Rd, Ashtabula, OH 44004
(440) 964-8324
www.AshtabulaVeterans.com