



Back The Blue Scholarship



The Decatur Police Department is pleased to offer the Back The Blue Scholarship to a graduating senior who plans to pursue a career in a Criminal Justice related field of study or an Emergency Service field of study. Studies may include, but not limited to, Law Enforcement, Fire Service, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Law, Nursing, etc. The Back the Blue scholarship is awarded in the amount of \$1,000, payable to the selected recipient(s).

The Back The Blue scholarship consist of the following:

- Application
- Copy of high school transcripts
- Copy of any college transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Essay
- Interview

To be considered for the scholarship the entire application must be submitted with all supporting documents. Specific details are included within the application, so make sure that all instructions are followed. The completed application must be submitted to the Decatur Police Department by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2026. If you should have questions in regards to the scholarship or application process contact Royce Gastineau at the Decatur Police Department (940) 393-0300.



Back The Blue Scholarship



Full Name of Applicant: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Street Address: _____

(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone Numbers - _____
(Home) (Cell)

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ Sex: () Male () Female

Ethnicity: () American Indian/Alaska Native () Asian
() Black/African American () Hispanic/Latino
() Multi Racial () Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
() White

High School Name/City/State: _____

Graduation Date: (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ High School GPA: _____

ACT Test Score: _____ SAT Test Score: _____

Education:

Please list in order of preference:

Colleges: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Intended majors 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

What is your career plan after college? _____



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Student's Employment Record:

| Business | Type of Work | Approx. # Hours per Wk. | Dates Worked |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Please list all requested information including the # of years involved. Please be specific. (You may add additional pages if needed.)

| Scholastic Awards (Ex. Trustee, Honor Roll, History Award) | Number of Years |
|--|-----------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

| Athletic Awards (Ex. Track Team, Volleyball Captain) | Number of Years |
|--|-----------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |



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Other Extra-Curricular Activities, Awards, or Honors

(Ex. Band, Eagle Scout)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Hobbies, Talents, or Interests not listed above:

(Ex. Piano lessons, youth groups)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Please attach:

- Copy of current high school transcripts
- Copy of any college transcripts (if available)
- Three letters of recommendation from a teacher, advisor, or adult (1 may include a family member)
- Essay outlining education goals, career goals, and how this scholarship will help mold your career path in a Criminal Justice related field of study or a Public Safety related field (ex. Fire, EMS). Essay should be a min. of one page with a max. of three pages. Essay should be double spaced in Times New Roman with a 12 font.
- Application must be submitted to the Decatur Police Department by **5 p.m.** on **March 27, 2026.**

I certify that all information on this application is correct:

Student's Signature and Date

Parent's Signature and Date



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RECOMMENDATION FORM

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY

TO THE APPLICANT:

Complete the top of the Recommendation form before giving it to the people you have chosen to recommend you.

Chosen evaluators should be adults who can personally testify to your academic abilities and personal character.

Only one (1) of the chosen evaluators can be a relative.

No application will be considered complete without this information.

IMPORTANT:

- Be Sure to complete the front of EACH letter of recommendation
- Provide an envelope to evaluator
- Provide a copy of these instructions to each evaluator.

It is your responsibility to insure that both of the completed and signed letters of recommendation are submitted at the same time of your application to the Decatur Police Department. **THE APPLICANT IS NOT TO OPEN THE SEALED LETTERS.**

TO THE EVALUATOR:

The information that you supply concerning this applicant's personality and motivation is very important in the final evaluation.

No application will be considered complete without this information.

IMPORTANT:

After you have completed this recommendation, seal it in the provided envelope with the applicant's name written on the outside of the envelope.

Return the envelope to the applicant for submission to the Decatur Police Department.



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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Applicant's Name: _____
Last First Middle

Applicant's Address: _____
Street
City State Zip Code

1. How long have you known the applicant?

2. Under what circumstances have you known the applicant:

3. Do you believe the applicant has the ability and is likely to succeed in a post-secondary educational program: _____ Yes _____ No (please explain why or why not)



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4. Based on your knowledge of the applicant, please answer the following questions:

a) What are the applicant's greatest strengths and assets?

b) What are the applicant's greatest weaknesses and liabilities?

5. Please summarize your primary reason for recommending this applicant-merit, need, etc.



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(Continued)

(Attach additional pages if needed)

(PLEASE PRINT)

Evaluator's Name: _____
Last First Middle

Evaluator's Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Occupation or Title: _____

Evaluator's Phone: _____ or _____
Day time Evening

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Note: This recommendation will not be considered complete without the evaluator's signature)