



Military Order of the Purple Heart
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, Virginia 22151
Phone: (703) 642-5360
Fax: (703) 642-2054 or 1841
Email: scholarship@purpleheart.org

2016 MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is a non-profit membership organization that is not affiliated with any military service branches. Approved membership is voluntary and not automatic upon receipt of the Purple Heart.

The MOPH Scholarship Program is funded by a grant from the MOPH Service Foundation. The MOPH Scholarship Program is a competitive scholarship program that awards approximately eighty (80) scholarships to Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, children, and grandchildren each year. One applicant with military service will be also be awarded the Navy Seal Lt. Michael Murphy Memorial Award, in addition to the MOPH Scholarship. This application package includes information pertaining to the MOPH Scholarship Program, eligibility and application requirements, and a Scholarship Application Form.

The MOPH Scholarship Committee evaluates all applications that are timely received and meet the eligibility and application requirements described below. All aspects of the application (academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community and military service, work experience, letters of recommendation, and essay) are considered and evaluated by the MOPH Scholarship Committee. The MOPH Scholarship Committee makes all decisions regarding the eligibility for a MOPH Scholarship and the award of a MOPH Scholarship, and all decisions are final.

NOT every applicant will receive a scholarship. Typically, about 25% of eligible applicants annually are awarded a MOPH scholarship. This is not a full tuition scholarship. The amount of the scholarship may vary each year subject to funding levels. We anticipate that the scholarships awarded this coming year will be approximately valued at \$3,000 per scholarship recipient, which will be split between two semesters, \$1,500 for each semester.

MOPH Scholarship checks are *required* to be endorsed by both the student and the school. The college or university, therefore, may exercise some control over how the funds are utilized and this can impact the level of financial benefit realized by the student.

Each college and university has its own policy regarding how outside scholarships are processed. It is up to the applicant to understand the policy at his or her university or college, and be aware that in certain circumstances a MOPH scholarship may be used by the school to reimburse another provider of financial assistance, like the VA for applicants using a GI Bill, therefore eliminating any added financial benefit to the student. Please visit the VA GI Bill Website: www.gibill.va.gov for more information. In such a case, we request that the MOPH scholarship be returned, so that it can be awarded to one of the applicants designated as an Alternate by the Scholarship Committee.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a MOPH Scholarship, applicants need to be a member of one of the following categories:

- A Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of the MOPH, *or*
- The spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of MOPH, *or*
- The direct lineal descendent (child, step-child, adopted child, grandchild, or step-grandchild) of a Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of MOPH, *or*
- The spouse, widow/widower, or direct lineal descendent of a service member killed-in-action or who died of wounds. If the Purple Heart recipient is listed as killed-in-action or died of wounds, supporting documentation and evidence must be included with the application.

A Purple Heart recipient who is not a member of the MOPH can become a member by applying online through the MOPH website: www.purpleheart.org. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the Purple Heart recipient must be a current member, a member at the time of his or her death, or documented as killed-in-action or as having died of wounds. If you do not know whether your lineal descendent was a member of MOPH before his/her passing, please contact MOPH Headquarters for assistance at (888) 668-1656 or (703) 642-5360 and ask for Membership.

Great-grandchildren are *not eligible* to apply. A MOPH Associate membership or membership in the MOPH Ladies Auxiliary *does not* by itself convey scholarship eligibility. It is highly recommended that non-Purple Heart recipients become either Associate members or members of the Ladies Auxiliary, and such membership does convey additional credit in the application process.

In order to be eligible to receive a MOPH Scholarship, applicants must meet the following three requirements:

1. A graduate or upcoming graduate (current senior) of a high school or GED program, *and*
2. Accepted by or enrolled as a **FULL-TIME** undergraduate student at an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school at the time the scholarship is awarded, *and*
3. Able to demonstrate the capacity for advanced academic achievement or technical proficiency, as demonstrated by maintaining at least a 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) based on an un-weighted 4.0 grading system.

Graduate students and students returning to school to receive additional undergraduate degrees after successfully completing at least one prior undergraduate degree program are *not eligible* to apply. A **full-time** student means carrying 12 or more credit hours per semester, or 18-quarter credit hours, or as determined by the school. The academic requirement of a 2.75 GPA may be waived for a Purple Heart recipient who is a member of the MOPH.

An applicant may receive a maximum of two scholarships awarded in non-consecutive years. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, incidental fees, room and board, and other direct costs associated with higher education. MOPH scholarship funds cannot be used for transportation expenses, summer school, to pay pre-existing educational loans, or to pay for a special program/research project.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, applicants need to complete and submit the following materials:

1. MOPH Scholarship Application Form, *and*
2. Original, **official** high school and/or college transcripts through the latest completed semester or quarter, *and*
3. Essay of 200-300 words (approximately one double-sided page) on the following subject: On September 11, 2001, Al-Qaeda affiliates attacked the United States and the country responded by going to war against terrorism. Describe the feelings you have about the young men and women who have chosen to fight this war, *and*
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation, *and*

5. A resume that lists all extracurricular activities and honors, community and/or military service, and employment experience, describing each activity in detail to include the number of hours the applicant spends per week/month on each activity, **and**
6. A non-refundable \$15.00 processing fee. Cash and credit cards **are not** accepted. Please send a check or money order made out to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and ensure the “for” line of the check states that the check is for the MOPH Scholarship Application processing fee.

All applications must be mailed in hard copy form to the address indicated at the top of this application packet. Faxed or emailed applications **will not** be accepted.

Due to the diversity of grading systems among educational institutions, the MOPH Scholarship Committee **PREFERS** high school or college grade transcripts that are based on an un-weighted 4.0 grading system. If an applicant’s academic transcript **does not** present the student’s GPA in an un-weighted 4.0 format, please ask the educational institution to convert the GPA to an un-weighted 4.0 scale or to provide an explanation about the grading scale utilized by the school and provide that information when submitting the application.

Letters of recommendation may be written by any individual who can attest to the character and potential of the applicant, such as a teacher, coach, religious leader, work supervisor, unit commander, etc.

After an application is submitted, the only information that can be changed is the name of the college, university, or trade school that the applicant plans to attend.

Navy Seal Lt. Michael Murphy Memorial Award

For applicants with military service who are interested in being considered for the **Navy Seal Lt. Michael Murphy Memorial Award**, please submit a copy of your DD-214, copies of all awards and decorations and any accompanying citations, in addition to the application requirements listed above on pages 3-4.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIMELINE

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|---------------------------|--|
| Mid-September 2015 | MOPH Scholarship Application posted online. |
| January 22, 2016 | Applications must be received by MOPH HQs in Springfield, Virginia, by 5:00 pm EST. No exceptions will be granted. |

February – March 2016 Applications are evaluated by the MOPH Scholarship Committee.

Mid-May 2016 Scholarship recipients are announced.

Each applicant who is selected to receive a MOPH Scholarship will be formally notified in mid-May 2016 by receiving an award letter in the mail. The names of every recipient will be posted on the MOPH website in mid-May as well. Upon notification, each scholarship recipient will be asked to submit a color photo and biographical information to include information regarding the college, university, or trade school that he/she plans to attend. The recipient also needs to sign the Multi-Media Consent agreement as well. Once that information is received, a two-way check will be made out to the scholarship recipient and the educational institution of his/her choice. If an applicant fails to submit the requested information, his/her scholarship may be given to an alternate applicant as designated by the MOPH Scholarship Committee.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

Deadline for ALL scholarship applications is 5:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time) January 22, 2016.

No exceptions will be granted.

The deadline listed above applies to all required documents and materials, including transcripts, letters of recommendation, and the processing fee. Any required items received after the deadline listed above will not be considered in the applicant's scholarship application package. The postmark date is irrelevant.

QUESTIONS

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact:

- Stewart McKeown, MOPH Headquarters Scholarship Manager at: scholarship@purpleheart.org or (703) 642-5360.
- Wendy Buckingham, Scholarship Committee Chairwoman at: ScholarshipChairwoman@purpleheart.org.



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**MOPH 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Last First Middle Initial

Address:

Street

City or Town State ZIP Code

Telephone Number E-Mail

Last Four Digits of your Social Security Number: ____ _

Date of Birth: _____ Male ____ Female ____

I am receiving education assistance through the Post 9/11 GI Bill Yes___ No___

If you are a **MOPH Associate Member** or a **Member of the Ladies Auxiliary**
Please enter your MOPH Associate Member or Ladies Auxiliary Member Number here*:

**An Associate Membership or membership in the Ladies Auxiliary does not by itself convey MOPH Scholarship eligibility.*

ELIGIBILITY

Name of the MOPH Member or Purple Heart Recipient (Killed-in-Action or Died of Wounds) from whom you descend:

MOPH Member Number: _____ Chapter: _____

Relationship to MOPH Member or Purple Heart Recipient: _____

Current Status of MOPH Member or Purple Heart Recipient from whom you descend:

Living ____ Deceased ____ Killed in Action* ____ Died of Wounds* ____

**Documentation verifying this claim is required.*

EDUCATION

List in order of attendance the high school, college, university, or trade school you have attended or are currently attending:

Name	Location	Dates
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Name	Location	Dates
------	----------	-------

Name	Location	Dates
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Name	Location	Dates
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Cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 un-weighted scale):

_____ High School

_____ College, University, or Trade School
Name and location of the college, university, or trade school to which you are applying or
are attending:

Major or course of study which you are currently pursuing or that you intend to pursue:

In addition to submitting this MOPH Scholarship Application Form, please ensure you include all of the required application materials listed on pages 3-4 of this application package when submitting your application.

DECLARATION OF MOPH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT

I have read and understand the enclosed information regarding the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Scholarship Program.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, I plan to attend an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school as a *full-time* student.

I certify that the information included in my application and all supporting documents is, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate, and complete.

I authorize the MOPH to request and receive information regarding my academic records and enrollment status at my designated college, university, or trade school.

I agree to abide by the rules and criteria established by the MOPH Scholarship Committee.

I understand that the decisions of the MOPH Scholarship Committee are final.

I authorize the MOPH to use any portion of my essay on the MOPH website to promote and advertise for the MOPH Scholarship Program.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian Signature* _____ Date _____

*If the applicant is under the age of 18 years

Mail or deliver the completed application, signed declaration, \$15.00 processing fee, and all supporting materials to:

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Attn: Scholarship Program
5413-B Backlick Road
Springfield, Virginia 22151

**DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS
5:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time), JANUARY 22, 2016**

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED

The deadline listed above applies to all required documents and materials including transcripts, letters of recommendation, and the processing fee. Any required items received after the deadline listed above will not be considered in the applicant's scholarship application package. The postmark date is irrelevant.