

OPERATION VALOR ARTS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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This scholarship opportunity is open to all Military Veterans with at least an Honorable Discharge and all Active Duty personnel. Operation Valor Arts is proud to help support all Veterans who have served their country honorably by offering these scholarships to help expand their future opportunities and possibilities.

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Please submit your completed application to:

Operation Valor Arts

P.O. Box 81768

1800 Murray Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

For all questions or concerns, please contact Allyson Holtz (**aholtz@ovarts.org**) or Dan Fisher (**dfisher@pitt.edu**)

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**Scholarship Requirements**:

1. Awards must be used within one year of receipt at a trade or technical school, two- or four-year accredited college / university, or graduate program.

2. Scholarships may be paid directly to the school (college, university, trade school or technical institute) *or* personally to the recipient, depending upon the recipient’s preference. The scholarship must be applied to tuition, books, and/or room and board. Scholarships cannot be exchanged for cash and are non-renewable.

3. Students who have received financial aid from other sources equal to or exceeding the cost of attending the school of their choice are ineligible to receive the Operation Valor Arts Scholarship.

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**Selection of Scholarship Recipients:**

An independent panel of judges, appointed by the Board of Directors of Operation Valor Arts, will review all applications received. The panel will select: two (2) scholarships to be awarded to a Military Veteran or Active Duty individual attending a technical institute or trade school; studying for a similar occupation; or applying to attend school at a two- or four-year college / university, or graduate program.

Operation Valor Arts will award these $1,000 scholarships to be used for the 2022-2023 academic year.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*To facilitate the completion of the application, please download the form as a *Word* document from www.ovarts.org.**

# Application Deadline: June 1, 2022



**OPERATION VALOR ARTS**

**SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS**

*(Continued)*

**Eligibility Requirements**

1. Applicant must be a United States Military Veteran with at least an Honorable Discharge *or* Active Duty personnel.
2. Applicant must be a member of his/her community in good standing with a clean citizen record.
3. Applicant must be scholastically qualified for admission to an educational institution.
4. Applicant must intend to pursue studies at an accredited educational institute designed to meet the requirements for an academic, professional, or occupational degree conferred by a college, university, trade/vocational school, or other accredited school as listed by the United States Department of Education at: [**http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspk**](http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.aspk)

**Selection**

The selection of the scholarship recipients will be made by the scholarship committee of Operation Valor Arts based solely on objective criteria including prior academic performance; recommendations of teachers, friends, professionals, and others; and a personal history submitted as part of the application.

**Important Dates**

4/1/22: Application submission period opens.

6/1/22: Deadline for submission of all applications.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scholarship Application: Summary of Community Service, Volunteer, Work and School Activities**  **(SAMPLE ONLY)** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  | |  |
|  |  | **# of Hours Worked,** | **Awards, Leadership,** |  |  | |
| **Position or** | **Length of Time Served** | **Donated, or** | **and/or Special Projects** |  |
| **Activity** | **or Dates From / To** | **Participated in Activity** | **Undertaken** |  | **Activity / Work Performed** | |
| **COMMUNITY** |  |  |  |  | | |
| Boy Scouts—Troop 325, Polyester Pines, PA | 6 years from becoming a Boy Scout to achieving Eagle (2013-2018) | Approx. 30 hours per month including meetings, activities, merit badge work, Jamboree, OA | Completed and was awarded the Eagle Scout Award (lifetime) | All scouting functions | | |
|  |  |  | Order of the Arrow (OA) | Eagle project: placed 100 stormwater markers on sewer grates, safety paint, maintenance & repair | | |
|  |  |  |  | Served as Troop Quartermaster and Treasurer, regularly inspected Troop gear and made purchases | | |
| Happy Heights Retirement Community | Worked each summer for 3 years (2015-2017) | Upwards of 20 hours per week as volunteer through mentorship program | Supervised 2 other junior volunteers | Participated in a number of activities meant to foster community and spend time with residents: games, music, crafts, gardening, dancing, cooking | | |
|  |  |  |  | Group discussions and 1-on-1 time with residents | | |
| **SCHOOL** |  |  |  |  | | |
| Marching band & concert band, Polyester Pines Jr.-Sr. High School | 5 years (approx.): 5 full years marching band, 3.5 years concert band | 4 hours per week | Received Musician of the Year Award and performed several solos | Played at all school activities including formal concerts, assembly demonstrations, football games, and marching band competitions | | |
|  |  |  |  | Tutored younger band members | | |
| **WORK** |  |  |  |  | | |
| U.S. Army | 2 years beginning 2018 | 40+ hours per week | Good Conduct Medal | Battery Clerk | | |
|  |  |  | Bronze Star | Completed Morning Reports | | |
|  |  |  |  | Fired 155 Howitzers | | |
|  |  |  |  | Qualified for OCS | | |

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| **Important Notes:** |
| 1. **Applicants must provide detailed information to ensure that the evaluator will be able to discern the amount of time, energy and effort applied to the activity undertaken. Please provide as much detail and specificity as possible so that we understand the full scope of commitment.** 2. **Applicant should categorize the activities in which he/she has participated into three main areas, as shown above in the example: Community / Volunteer (Scouts, borough, church, etc.); Work (including military service); and School (including athletic activities, music, clubs, etc.)** 3. **Pick one of the activities listed under any of the three major categories and submit a Reference Form (page 9 of the application) for that activity.** 4. **If the applicant has participated in more than five activities, please list the top five most relevant or significant activities.** |



**OPERATION VALOR ARTS**

**SCHOLARSHIP RATING CRITERIA**

**Percentage**

**Community Service, Volunteer, and Work Experience** 30%

Each applicant will be evaluated for his/her community service, volunteer activities, and employment. An applicant’s volunteer time or participation in activities related to or supporting the community, civic engagement and government, places of worship, Scouting, activism and social justice, environmental action, mentorship and tutoring, or other similar organizations will be considered. Awards or citations, leadership positions within a club or organization, certifications, community service credits, and similar factors will also be considered. Leadership and experience benchmarks are important traits for consideration of any Veteran applicant. Awards or examples of exemplary conduct, valor, or exceptional leadership within the applicant’s actual military experiences may serve as important factors for scholarship consideration.

**Essays** 25%

Applicants must answer question #9 and must also select one of the three topics

under #10, writing an essay in response to each question. Each essay shall not

exceed 250 words.

**Personal Accomplishments and Goals** 15% Provide details of personal accomplishments and goals attained as well as goals

for the future.

**Academic Achievements** 15%

The applicants’ academic achievements will be considered.

**Recommendation Letters** 10%

Applicants must submit a reference from a supervisor of his/her military service,

community service, volunteer work, school activities, and/or employment.

**Overall Application Appearance** 5%

The evaluation committee will consider neatness, spelling, grammar,

and punctuation.

**TOTAL** 100%



2022

OPERATION VALOR ARTS

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Only United States Military Veterans with an Honorable Discharge and Active Duty personnel may apply for this scholarship. Application forms are available online at **www.ovarts.org** or by contacting

Allyson Holtz (**aholtz@ovarts.org**).

**1. Full Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Present Address**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Primary Telephone**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Email Address**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Name of the institution of higher education (college, university, trade school or technical institute) at which you have been accepted and plan to pursue your education and/or are currently enrolled:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Anticipated and/or current major field of study**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Answer the following question in essay form. Do not exceed 250 words. Please use page 7 to respond to this question. Essay must be typewritten in the space provided.**

***Explain what you have done to make your community a better place in which to live.*** *Provide an example or two of specific projects that you have organized or contributed to. Consider any activities that you have participated in including nonprofit or religious organizations, Scouting, or any other group of which you are or have been a member. (See page 4 for a broader list.)*

**8. Answer one (1) of the following three topics in essay form. Do not exceed 250 words. Please use page 7 to respond to this question. Essay must be typewritten in the space provided.**

1. ***Describe any of your special interests and how you have developed knowledge in these areas.*** *Provide examples of your creativity: the ability to identify solutions or alternatives; take diverse perspectives; come up with original or varied ideas; or demonstrate willingness to try new things. You may include military special interests and how they have prepared you.*
2. ***Describe a leadership experience in which you have significantly influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to a group’s efforts over time.*** *Consider school and out-of-school experiences. Veterans, please consider military experiences.*
3. ***Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to address this challenge.*** *Include anyone who provided help, the role that person played, and what you learned about yourself.*

**10. Applicants must complete the Summary of Community Service / Volunteer, Work, and School Activities Form on page 8. See page 3** for an example of a completed form attached to the scholarship instructions.

**11. Applicants must submit one reference (see page 9).**

I certify that the information given in this application is true and accurate. I have read and understand the requirements for this scholarship.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applications MUST be submitted by no later than **June 1, 2022!** Prior to submitting your completed application, please utilize the checklist below to ensure that you are submitting all required information. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Application Check List**:

\_\_\_\_ Complete two essay questions on page 7.

\_\_\_\_ Complete and submit the Summary of Community Service / Volunteer, Work, and School Activities

form on page 8.

\_\_\_\_ Provide one (1) reference using page 9.

\_\_\_\_ Complete, sign, and date application.

**Type your answer to Question #7 in the box below. Your answer should not exceed 250 words.**

**Circle the essay topic which you are answering for Question #8: A B C**

**Type your answer to Question #8 in the box below. Your answer should not exceed 250 words.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scholarship Application: Summary of Community Service / Volunteer, Work, and School Activities**  **(Download the *Word* version of this form from the Operation Valor Arts website, www.ovarts.org, and type in your information.)** | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **# of Hours Worked,** | **Awards, Leadership** |  |  |
| **Position or** | **Length of Time Served** | **Donated, or** | **and/or Special Projects** |  |  |
| **Activity** | **or Dates From / To** | **Participated in Activity** | **Undertaken** |  | **Activity/Work Performed** |
| **COMMUNITY** |  |  |  |  | |
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| **SCHOOL** |  |  |  |  | |
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| **WORK** |  |  |  |  | |
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| **Important Notes:** |
| 1. **Applicants must provide detailed information to ensure that the evaluator will be able to discern the amount of time, energy and effort applied to the activity undertaken. Please provide as much detail and specificity as possible so that we understand the full scope of commitment.** 2. **Applicant should categorize the activities in which he/she has participated into three main areas, as shown above and on example page 3: Community / Volunteer (Scouts, borough, church, etc.); Work (including military service); and School (including athletic activities, music, clubs, etc.)** 3. **Pick one of the activities listed under any of the three major categories and submit a Reference Form (page 9 of the application) for that activity.** 4. **If the applicant has participated in more than five activities, please list the top five most relevant or significant activities.** |

**OPERATION VALOR ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

**REFERENCE FORM**

This form must be completed by a supervisor of the organization for which the applicant has performed community service; a leader for a cited activity that the applicant has participated in; or a supervisor at his/her place of employment. The reference must come from an individual who is not related to the applicant. To access this page, you can download a Word version of the Operation Valor Arts Scholarship Application at **www.ovarts.org**.

This entire form must be completed by the individual providing the reference. **No additional reference information is required.** Please be aware that this reference is an important component of the applicant’s overall score.

1. Scholarship applicant’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Title / relationship to applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Length of time you have known the applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Please describe why you think this applicant deserves this scholarship. You may describe the work or volunteer activities in which the applicant has participated, his/her character traits, and any accomplishments achieved or leadership roles the applicant has assumed. Your reference should not exceed 250 words and must be typewritten.
6. Once completed, place the Reference Form in a sealed envelope. Sign your name over the sealed edge on the back of the envelope and return it to the student. Scholarship applicants must submit the sealed envelope containing the Reference Form along with their application. **Students are not permitted to open the envelope; doing so will disqualify the applicant.**

I hereby certify the above information to be true and correct. Should there be any questions regarding the information I have provided I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_