



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship?

Our scholarship is for ASC-registered dependent children attending kindergarten through 12th grade and trade school for the upcoming fall/spring school year, **who do not qualify for scholarships at other major foundations** that provide grants for surviving military families. Our educational grant is not intended to be used in conjunction with scholarships from Folds of Honor or Folded Flag foundations. Many families may be eligible for more grants than they realize (including PTSD suicide) and should pursue those opportunities. Where they do not qualify may be for circumstances where a service connection for death of the fallen was not granted by the VA for stateside illness, injuries, or suicide. Other circumstances that may disqualify scholarship applicants can be the death of the fallen occurred stateside in a non-training accident, or without a record of overseas deployment or after active duty. If you have questions, please call Tom Rankin, Scholarship Administrator at A Soldier’s Child.

What other foundations offer scholarships for K-12 and trade school students who are surviving members of military families?

The Folded Flag Foundation

- <https://www.foldedflagfoundation.org>
- Application period for the upcoming school year opens March 1st and closes May 12th. A summer school/activity grant may be available and has an earlier deadline of April 14th.

Folds of Honor Foundation

- <https://foldsofhonor.org>
- Application period opens February 1st and closes March 31st.

What if I need to find out my family’s service connect status for eligibility at The Folded Flag Foundation and/or Folds of Honor Foundation?

Call the VA hotline at (800) 827-1000.

How do I apply for the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship?

Applications for the upcoming 2023/24 Fall/Spring school year will be available March 1st of 2023 by request. If you think you do not qualify for a scholarship at the other foundations, contact the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin, at TOM@ASOLDIERSCHILD.ORG and request an application.

We will accept applications through March 31st. Since we are in the 2nd year of a pilot program, our funds are limited to a small number of grants we can award. Qualified and complete applications will be awarded based on financial need and inability to qualify for other grants, and will be determined on a first come, first served basis. In the event that we do not obtain enough qualified applicants to utilize our scholarship funds by March 25th, we will open up a second application period in April. We will announce any phase 2 application periods here in the website.

The application must be completed in full to be considered for a grant, but we have made our process as streamlined and easy as possible. We ask for a minimal amount of documents and information. We do not require transcripts or include any essay questions. If the student is 18 years of age at the time of application, he/she can complete the application, otherwise, it should be completed by his/her parent or legal guardian. All applicants need to first be registered with A Soldier's Child Foundation. To apply, complete all questions on the application, sign, attach 2 required documents, and submit. Required documents are as follows:

- Proof of enrollment in school or service provider: this can be letter of acceptance, email on school or service provider letterhead of acceptance, or other proof of enrollment for the upcoming school year. The document should include the student's name and the period for schooling or services.
- Tuition letter, invoice, email from the school, or website showing estimated tuition and tuition fees for the upcoming school year as well as whom to make checks payable to. If the application is for tutoring or home schooling, an invoice should be attached.

Is the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship available to qualified ASC students in all 50 states?

Yes.

When are the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” Scholarship applications accepted?

Applications will be accepted March 1st, 2023 through midnight March 25th 2023.

What expenses are covered by the Xavier Martin “Fill in the Gap” scholarship?

One of the following categories is covered: tuition, tutoring, or home schooling costs.

Can a tuition scholarship also cover fees for other expenses such as sports or lunches?

A tuition scholarship can be used for tuition fees but not for other fees such as sports, lunches, activities, books, technology, busing, etc.

Can I select anyone to provide tutoring?

Payments cannot be sent to an individual. Tutoring should be provided by a licensed business at an established location with a credentialed staff. This also more likely meets IRS guidelines. There are

many qualified services nationwide and some of these include Sylvan Learning Centers, Mathnasium, and Kumon Math and Reading Centers.

What costs for home schooling are provided?

While parents may serve the role of “learning coaches,” scholarship awards for homeschooling cannot be paid to an individual. Costs covered can be provided as payment to a third party for items such as online or video instruction, required books (as part of a documented curriculum), or other items on a case-by-case basis. In all instances, an invoice should be provided so payment can be made to the service provider.

What is the scholarship award process?

Please note that submission of an application and documents does not guarantee approval. Funding is awarded at the sole discretion of A Soldier’s Child Foundation, and we reserve the right to change these policies at any time. Because award decisions are subject to available resources at the time of submission, approval can in some instances be based on a first-come, first-served basis of fully completed submitted applications. All applications should be completed and submitted with documents included by the March 25th deadline to be considered.

How are funds provided?

Scholarship award checks are written to the educational institution or service provider and mailed to the student’s parent or guardian for delivery to the correct location. The award check will include the student’s name in the memo.

Can I submit a receipt for reimbursement?

Because we draft award checks to the third-party institution or organization, receipts are not accepted. An invoice of tuition or services to be provided should be submitted and include letterhead, student name, and school year or dates of service. An email from the school or provider with this information is acceptable.

How much is awarded to approved scholarship recipients?

Grants awarded are up to \$2,500.

Is the scholarship renewable from year to year or must I reapply each year?

A completed application is required each year for each student.

What if I transfer to another school or service provider after my application has been submitted or approved?

Contact the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin, at A Soldier’s Child Foundation as soon as you can. We can update the application with the new information. If funds to another school or provider have already been mailed or deposited, we would first need to recover that, and then whatever portion is refunded to the foundation can be eligible for review for payment to another school or provider.

I need help with trade school, and undergraduate or graduate college expenses.

Overall, financial assistance for undergraduate and trade school education is abundant. Applying for this assistance can be time-consuming but well worth the effort. Be very aware of deadlines. For the school you plan to attend, contact their financial aid office once accepted. In addition, here are some resources to be aware of:

- **FAFSA** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This can provide grants, work-study, and loans. Also note many states and colleges use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for state and school aid. You will need to complete the FAFSA. This can be done as early as October before you attend college the following year and the deadline is June 30th of the year you plan to attend fall semester. FAFSA support for trade school will depend on the school, contact the financial aid office. The link is fafsa.gov
- **GI Bill** There are two main VA programs that provide considerable education assistance to survivors of veterans, the Fry Scholarship or Chapter 33 and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) or Chapter 33. Apply as soon as possible after applying to school admissions. Typically, it takes 45-60 days for the VA to issue a certificate of eligibility. The GI bill also covers trade school education. For more information or to apply go to the following links:

<https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/288>

What foundations provide grants for surviving military families to assist with trade school, undergraduate, or graduate school?

The Folded Flag Foundation

- <https://www.foldedflagfoundation.org>
- Application period for the upcoming school year opens March 1st and closes May 12th. A summer school/activity grant may be available and has an earlier application deadline of April 14th.
- Note that Folded Flag covers trade school, undergraduate, and graduate school for both children and surviving spouses.

Folds of Honor Foundation

- <https://foldsofhonor.org>
- Application period opens February 1st and closes March 31st

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

- www.fallenpatriots.org

No Greater Sacrifice Foundation

- <https://nogreatersacrifice.org/>

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund

- FreedomAlliance.org

If you have additional questions or want to discuss your specific needs concerning educational cost, please call (615) 220-1600 and ask for the Scholarship Administrator, Tom Rankin.