



The NYPD With Arms Wide Open Detective Steven McDonald Memorial Scholarship 2024 SCHOLARSHIP MISSION STATEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS

The mission of NYPD With Arms Wide Open is to provide a forum where police officers of all ranks, and their families, can attend meetings and discuss issues surrounding being the parents/guardians/caretakers of a child with special needs. Often times, families with special needs children feel isolated and are in need of an organization that addresses their very specific needs and issues. NYPD With Arms Wide Open helps these families care for their children while navigating through the culture, complexities and dangers of being a member of the New York City Police Department.

As an officer with the NYPD, Steven McDonald was questioning three young men in Central Park one summer day in 1986 when one of them shot him three times – leaving him paralyzed from the neck down, and dependent on a breathing apparatus. After a long recovery and rehabilitation, Detective McDonald spoke to thousands of students in schools up and down the East Coast. Aside from recounting the harrowing events of the day that changed his life, McDonald focused on his remarkable journey and the power of perseverance and forgiveness.

In the spirit of all that Detective Steven McDonald stood for, NYPD With Arms Wide Open has established a scholarship award for students within the NYPD community living with special needs or those who are the family members of an individual with special needs.

Applicant must have a family member within the NYPD - active or retired: (*parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or cousin*) and be a graduating high school senior, with good academic and disciplinary standing who meet one or all of the following criteria:

- 1.) Is a student of the special needs community*
- 2.) Is the sibling of an individual with special needs*
- 3.) Has dedicated his or her community service to the special needs community

* Special needs must be a documented physical, medical, developmental or learning disability.

- ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 -

APPLICATION FORM

Please return this form (*all pages completed*), as well as the following documents as **four separate .PDF** attachments to your email - if sections of application are not properly separated, the applicant will not be considered for award. Please read and follow ALL documentation submission instructions carefully. Double check your work and make sure all signatures are secured before submission.

1. Your personal essay with each page **marked with your date of birth only**. Please remove your name and any other identifying information. This ensures a completely transparent voting process for the scholarship committee.
2. A brief personal bio (one page)
3. A high resolution (.JPG) headshot or Senior Portrait
4. Your signed, completed scholarship application form

Only electronic entries sent to jennifer_oreilly@live.com in PDF format will be acknowledged by the scholarship committee. Submissions will be accepted up to and including Friday, February 2, 2024. E-mail confirmation will be sent once completed entry is received. If there are any questions or anticipated complications with the application submission process, please call 914-525-2836 to discuss in further detail.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Parent #1 Name _____ Occupation _____

Department/Command/Rank (if applicable) _____

Parent #2 Name _____ Occupation _____

Department/Command/Rank (if applicable) _____

Family Member in the NYPD _____

Department/Command/Rank _____

Relationship to applicant _____

Documented Special Need of applicant and/or sibling/friend

(For example, but not limited to: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Birth Defect, Syndrome, Congenital Health issues, Physical Disability or learning disability. Please feel free to call 914-525-2836 for further discussion/clarification)

High School(s) attended:

SCHOOL AND TOWN

FROM DATE TO DATE

Projected Graduation Date: _____

College/Institution I plan to attend: _____

Beginning date: _____

Intended field of study: _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES: *(Attach an additional sheet if necessary)* Please list all the ways you have been a leader or active volunteer in your school and community.

ACTIVITY AND DATES

LEADERSHIP (if any)

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: *(Attach an additional sheet if necessary)* List all school and/or individual activities in which you have participated in the last four years (sports, the arts, student government, clubs, volunteer projects, religious groups, scouting, etc.).

ACTIVITY AND DATES

HONORS/LEADERSHIP (if any)

WORK EXPERIENCE: Please tell us about your paid work experience outside of school that you have held within the last four years

POSITION AND DATES

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

By submitting this form, applicant is confirming that all submitted information is true, and grants permission to publicize receipt of the scholarship if this application is selected, including photographs or other images in connection with such publication. Should applicant be granted the award, participation and attendance at the scholarship award ceremony is mandatory. Event will be held in the NYC metro area on a date to be discussed in late Spring of 2024. Recipient will be awarded three additional invitations in total to the event. One for themselves and their parents/guardians.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Signature of Guidance Counselor/Teacher _____

Date _____

PERSONAL ESSAY FORM

Essay should be at least two to three pages type-written and double-spaced. We ask that you include a proper introduction about your personal and life experience and how it relates to the mission statement of **NYPD With Arms Wide Open** (visit www.nypdwawo.org for more information) *PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY. SUBMISSIONS WITH COMMON APPLICATION ESSAYS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD.* Next, incorporate any **two** of the following questions in your personal essay and be sure to include your detailed response to the closing statement:

- Do you think that having special needs, or being a family member of an individual with special needs has shaped the way you look at life? How?
- Do you think everyone, regardless of disability has the ability to lead by example? Explain.
- What would a peer in a group you lead and/or perform service with say about you and your service to special needs individuals?
- What major obstacles have you overcome as an individual with special needs? How has this shaped the student, leader and young adult you have become?

CLOSING STATEMENT - How has the life story of Detective Steven McDonald inspired you as an individual with special needs, or the family member or friend of an individual with special needs? What message, like Detective McDonald's message of peace and forgiveness, would you speak about to others if given the platform?

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***NYPD With Arms Wide Open** is a A 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that is available to all cops, active and retired regardless of rank who has a child with special needs. Further information can be found by visiting our website at www.nypdwawo.org*