



PROTECTING, LEADING & UNITING SINCE 1893

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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flsheriffs.org    

March 2, 2026

TO: All Sheriffs

FROM: Matt Dunagan, Executive Director

RE: 2026 FSA Criminal Justice Scholarship

The Florida Sheriffs Association is pleased to offer scholarships to children of sheriffs' office full-time employees seeking degrees in the field of criminal justice. We will be awarding at least ten scholarships valued at \$2,000. To qualify the student must:

- Be a dependent son or daughter (stepchildren are eligible) of any full-time sheriff's office employee.
- Be attending a college or community college that is regionally accredited and be enrolled in a degree-seeking program for the school term beginning in the Fall, 2026.
- Certify within the application that they are planning a career in law enforcement, law, corrections, or a related criminal justice field.

PLEASE NOTE that the application is to be completed online: Qualified students may apply for the scholarship using the following link: [FSA 2026 Criminal Justice Scholarship Application](#). Additionally, the *required* Parental Verification and Waiver form can be found using this link: [FSA 2026 Criminal Justice Scholarship - Parent Verification and Waiver Form](#)

We will be sending the scholarship recipients a certificate to the Sheriff's office for presentation by the Sheriff. Please provide us with a picture of this presentation for our website, publications, and other FSA channels.

If you have any questions, call Harriet Sespico at (850) 877-2165 or email hsepsico@flsheriffs.org.

attachments: NOTICE FOR POSTING



2026 Florida Sheriffs Association Criminal Justice Scholarship

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This program is open to any dependent son or daughter (stepchildren are eligible) of a full-time sheriff's office employee. The dependent child must be attending a regionally accredited community college, college, or university (i.e., the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools), in the school term to begin in the Fall 2026. The dependent's career objective and degree must be focused on law enforcement, law, corrections, or another field of criminal justice.

HOW MANY ARE AWARDED AND HOW MUCH ARE THEY WORTH?

At least ten scholarships may be awarded, valued at \$2,000 each.

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

All applications for scholarships **must** be accompanied by certain documentation, a listing of which is included in the online application. Additionally, the **required** Parent Verification and Waiver Form must be submitted, or the application will not be considered.

WHERE CAN I GET AN APPLICATION PACKAGE?

Please visit [FSA 2026 Criminal Justice Scholarship Application](#) to access the application. Please visit [FSA 2026 Criminal Justice Scholarship - Parent Verification and Waiver Form](#) to access the **required** Parent Verification and Waiver Form.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

To facilitate the work of the screening committee, applications for scholarships **must** be submitted **no later than Wednesday, April 30, 2026**.

IF I NEED FURTHER INFORMATION, WHO DO I CONTACT?

Call or e-mail Harriet Sespico at (850) 877-2165 or hsepic@flsheriffs.org.