



## *Steese Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.*

*800 William C Leary Lane*

*Fairbanks, Alaska 99712*

*Phone: (907) 457-3710 Fax: (907) 457-1512*

### **Scholarship Program**

The Steese Volunteer Fire Department offers a limited number of positions for individuals to serve as scholarship firefighters through a residential live-in program while attending the University of Alaska Community & Technical College (CTC) and ultimately the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Campus.

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist the fire department in higher staffing of volunteers for emergency response operations. Through the scholarship program, individuals will acquire the experience, knowledge, and skills necessary to obtain career positions in the emergency services.

This scholarship provides funds for individuals pursuing an Associate's degree in Fire Science and, as funding allows a bachelor's degree, intending to attain a career position within the field of emergency services.

Interested individuals must register with UAF's CTC Fire Science Program.

Scholarship funds are provided under a reimbursement process whereby the scholarship firefighter pays for tuition and other semester expenses upfront at the beginning of each semester. Upon successful completion of the semester, the student is reimbursed up to \$6,900 per semester.

Considerations in selecting individuals for the scholarship program will be made on their efforts towards career goals, service to their community, educational achievements, personal motivation, and commitment to the Steese Volunteer Fire Department.

The application process can be started, and program documents can be downloaded on our website [www.steesefire.org](http://www.steesefire.org).

For more information about our Scholarship program, please contact:

Samara Steele, Office Manager

Office: (907) 987-7054

Or

David Daniel, Deputy Fire Chief

Office: 907-457-5861

Email: [recruitment@steesefire.org](mailto:recruitment@steesefire.org)



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### **Scholarship Outline of Funding**

The Steese Volunteer Fire Department Inc. provides fifteen two-year scholarships. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist the fire department in higher staffing of volunteers for emergency response operations. Scholarship recipients must be registered as full-time students with UAF'S Community and Technical College (CTC) Fire Science Program in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The scholarship will reimburse expenses for the following line items each fall and spring semester, not to exceed \$6,900 per semester:

- 12 credits minimum
- Course/Material Fees
- Textbooks
- Parking Fee
- Meals

The "Total Semester" cost reimbursement is \$6,900 per semester. Students who are not Alaska residents may be subject to additional tuition fees for which they are responsible.

A fire department dorm room will be provided free of charge at different station locations (dependent on availability).

Scholarship recipients must meet eligibility requirements to qualify for reimbursements each semester. The requirements are:

- Maintain 12 credit hours per semester with a grade point average of 2.00 or better;
- Volunteer up to 56 hours per week on rotating 48/96-hour shifts;
- Maintain a satisfactory driving and criminal record,
- Meet the department's ongoing performance and conduct standards, and;
- Successful completion of assigned semester project.



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### **Awarding of the Scholarship**

When an applicant is selected for a scholarship position, a scholarship offer is made to the individual, contingent on the applicant's completion of the following items;

1. The applicant has an acceptable driving history
2. The applicant has an acceptable criminal history
3. The applicant has a current and valid driver's license
4. The applicant is registered with the University of Alaska's CTC Fire Science Program.
5. The applicant is enrolled in the CTC Fire Academy and successfully graduates from the Academy or has a current IFSAC Firefighter I certification.
6. The applicant can pass the CPAT or Biddle Physical Agility Test or have a current certification.
7. Must be a certified IFSAC/ProBoard Firefighter or must pass the Firefighter I course within six months.



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### **Steese Scholarship Questions & Answers**

1. Do I live in a dormitory on the UAF campus?

**Answer:** Scholarship recipients will reside in a Steese Fire Station if a room is available. Recipients will be assigned a bunk amongst the 11 double rooms that exist. The Scholarship Program Coordinator will select your roommate. Recipients are responsible for their bedding materials.

For obvious reasons, married individuals are exempt from being required to reside within a station permanently. Instead, they are required to complete their two 24-hour shifts and utilize a "Duty Bunk" whenever they are on shift. The department does not cover housing expenses for individuals who do not reside within the fire station.

2. Does the scholarship cover my food expenses?

**Answer:** Yes. The program covers groceries used to prepare your meals. You must keep all your grocery receipts and submit them to be reimbursed at the end of the semester. Food receipts must be from local stores and restaurants and must be dated during the current fiscal year. Dry goods & supplements ordered from online suppliers are allowed. While the student is on vacation or out of state, food receipts will not be reimbursed unless the student is on a school-related trip or externship. Food reimbursement is capped at \$2500.00 per semester.

3. What about refrigerator/freezer space for food?

**Answer:** Each individual has access to a shared refrigerator & freezer or is assigned a single user fridge/freezer unit in their room.

4. What about uniform expenses?

**Answer:** The department provides two pairs of uniform pants, two department T-shirts, one Class B uniform shirt, and a biennial boot allowance of \$175. The black boots must meet certain department specifications. The department has specific design requirements for its uniforms. Do not make a purchase without prior authorization from the Quartermaster.



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### 5. How does the scholarship work?

**Answer:** The scholarship is a 48 hours on-duty, 96 hours off-duty schedule that is popular amongst fire departments throughout the nation. Scholarship recipients are not compensated for the time they volunteer. We have three shifts, A-shift, B-shift, and C-shift. You will be assigned to one of these three shifts. The on-coming shift and off-going shift meet for a debrief at each station at 0800 hours. All firefighters will wear Class B uniforms. Scholarship recipients will participate in all activities of a shift (i.e., apparatus checks, housekeeping, training, emergency responses, and special projects) under the supervision of their Shift Captain. If an individual has a University class or classes during that time, they must coordinate that with their Shift Captain and attend their classes.

### 6. Can I go home for the Holidays?

**Answer:** Probably. Our priority is to ensure adequate staffing for emergency response, 24/7, 365 days a year. That is the whole purpose of this scholarship program. Individuals are assigned to a shift. Leave is granted as long as there is adequate coverage remaining. Individuals must line up a firefighter from another shift to cover their position while they are on leave. We are very flexible but have to draw the line if everyone wants to leave at the same time. The priority of leave requests being granted will be based on seniority and department certifications achieved. Those that accomplish more training & certifications in the department receive preference in leave requests.

### 7. What about working during the holidays?

**Answer:** Each holiday break (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break) will have pre-established dates identified that will transition a select quantity of scholarship recipients from a non-paid status to a paid status, within those said dates, and then back to non-paid status after the particular holiday break is over. The Christmas break is one month long. Each scholarship firefighter is expected to work two weeks out of that month.

### 8. Can I go home for the entire duration of summer?

**Answer:** For a limited amount of time. You may become a Summer Hire for the department from approximately May to September, and the scholarship program transitions you from non-paid to paid status. This requirement is subject to available funding. You are encouraged to take a one-month vacation in the summer. Scholarship firefighters that will be hired to work for SVFD during the summer will be notified at the beginning of March. Individuals submit their request for which month they would like to take off, anytime during the Spring. The Scholarship Program Coordinator will determine who has priority on each summer month request, based on department certifications achieved.

Should the department be faced with Summer Hire funding reductions, the individuals with the most department certifications, demonstrated work ethic and self-motivation, will be hired. Those individuals who cannot be hired for the summer will still have their dorm



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room over the summer and their scholarship in the coming fall semester. SVFD will help pursue summer employment options for those individuals not hired.

9. How far away is the University Campus from the three Steese Fire Stations? Answer:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Physical Address</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Driving Time</u>
Station 61	800 William C. Leary Lane	6.7 miles	9 minutes
Station 62	585 Old Steele Creek Road	8.8 miles	12 minutes
Station 63	284 Goldstream Road	12.3 miles	16 minutes

10. Is transportation available to and from fire science classes?

**Answer:** Ultimately, you are responsible for your transportation to classes, whether on duty or off. While you are on duty, your Captain will determine whether one of the department's squads or command vehicles is not needed for shift operations and can be freed up for classes. Transporting more than just one Firefighter to class is expected. Vehicles used for this purpose are for the on-duty crew; the off-duty crew may ride along with the understanding that the on-duty crew has priority. They may have to find alternate transportation if the on-duty crew receives a call.

11. If I'm not an Alaska Resident, are my tuition fees at a higher rate?

**Answer:** Yes. Scholarship recipients that are non-residents pay a higher tuition fee than Alaska residents. Out-of-state recipients are responsible for covering the difference in tuition expenses. Flexibility exists in that a higher amount of scholarship funds awarded in a semester can be applied toward the out-of-state tuition, which would then reduce the other reimbursable amounts. Out-of-state recipients should look into the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program offered by UAF. Out-of-state students who are in the WUE program are charged less tuition fees than a typical non-resident student. Details of the WUE program are at the following link:

<http://www.uaf.edu/admissions/apply/wue/>

It is also recommended that you contact John George, Fire Science Program Coordinator Office: (907) 455-2879, Email: [jgeorge@alaska.edu](mailto:jgeorge@alaska.edu). He works with various financial assistance programs that the University offers, which may be of interest.

Another solution to stretch your tuition dollars is to sign up for online college courses. Courses of this nature do not have to be taken through CTC or UAF, and the credits earned will be applied in the semester in which the class is completed.

12. What if I have other scholarships or the GI Bill?

**Answer:** The scholarship program is a reimbursement program; therefore, if you receive scholarships, grants, or a GI bill, the program will only reimburse expenses not covered by those programs. For example, if your tuition bill is \$6000 and your scholarship, grant, or GI bill covers \$5000, you will only be reimbursed \$1000.



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13. What is the process of getting reimbursed for my tuition & fees at the end of the semester?

**Answer:** First, make sure you keep every receipt of every expenditure you make during the semester. Our Office Manager will review each receipt to determine whether it can qualify to be reimbursed with scholarship funds. Once you have received all your grades at the end of a semester, you will meet with the Office Manager to print them off and schedule an appointment with the Scholarship Program Coordinator and your Shift Captain to complete a review of the semester's benchmarks.

The following benchmarks will be reviewed.

- Did the recipient achieve a 2.0-semester grade point average (GPA)?
- Did the recipient complete 12 credits minimum during the semester?
- Did the recipient participate in their assigned shift on a regular basis?
- Did the recipient complete their assigned semester project?

If all benchmarks are completed, the Scholarship Program Coordinator authorizes reimbursement, and then the recipient works with the Office Manager on receipt totals. Two checks will be cut to reimburse the recipient within a couple of weeks. Tuition, fees & books will be in a check, and food reimbursement will be in a separate paycheck.

13. What if I don't achieve one of the semester benchmarks?

**Answer:** The individual will be reimbursed for the "Failed Semester" but is then placed on "Academic Probation" for the following semester. If the student fails the semester, they are on academic probation, they are still reimbursed, but their scholarship is then terminated. If the recipient meets all semester benchmarks during their academic probation, they are reimbursed and taken off academic probation. Their scholarship then proceeds as normal.

14. What is meant by an "assigned semester project"?

**Answer:** Before starting each semester, the Scholarship Program Coordinator assigns a department (semester) project to each scholarship recipient. Not all recipients will have the same project. Some will be tasked with achieving "Jump Seat Qualification," others may be assigned "Emergency Medical Technician 1 certification", etc. Assignments are based on the department's operational needs and the capabilities of the recipient. Assigned department projects are lined out, so there is no concern about jeopardizing students' academic success.

15. Am I responsible for any house cleaning chores?

**Answer:** Yes. In addition to regular housekeeping duties on shift, the typical "clean up after yourself" rule applies to everyone in the department, whether on-duty or off-duty.



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16. Should I get renters insurance for my possessions?

**Answer:** Yes, unfortunately, our insurance policy does not cover the personal possessions in your living quarters. We encourage you to obtain a renters insurance policy to cover your possessions in case of flood, fire, or theft.

17. Can I receive mail at the fire station?

**Answer:** Yes, you will be assigned a department box with your name on it. All small mail items will be placed in your box, while packages will be placed on the shelves below the department boxes. Mail is only checked during weekdays. If you want to receive your mail at your convenience, we encourage you to obtain a student post office box on the UAF campus.

18. Can I go to the UAF Paramedic Academy while being a Scholarship Firefighter?

**Answer:** Yes. However, to be eligible, you must:

- Must be a Steese scholarship firefighter who has been active with the department for two years.
- Must be IFSAC FF1 certified.
- Must have completed an
- Must be functioning as a Steese medic at the EMT 1 level.
- Must be SVFD Jump Seat Qualified (JSQ) and active in both fire and ems responses.
- Must be insurable to drive/operate SVFD apparatus/vehicles.

There is only one paramedic academy scholarship position per year, so there is an application process. Please see the Paramedic Scholarship Program FAQ for more details.

19. Can I continue being a Scholarship Firefighter after completing my Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science.

**Answer:** Yes, as long as you continue as a member in good standing, continue meeting the scholarship benchmarks, and funding is available, we will support you in your educational goals





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19. Could my scholarship ever be revoked?

**Answer:** Yes, it could happen. Other than not meeting the semester benchmarks while you are on academic probation, your scholarship may be revoked for any of the following infractions (but not limited to);

- Driving under the influence
- Receiving a traffic violation that prohibits our insurance carrier from being able to ensure you.
- Insubordination
- Sexual Harassment or bullying
- Inappropriate behavior, both off-duty and on-duty.
- Criminal charges
- Blatant disregard or misuse of department-issued equipment, non-issued equipment, or facilities.

Please direct any questions not answered by this FAQ to the Office Manager or the Scholarship Program Coordinator by emailing [recruitment@steesefire.org](mailto:recruitment@steesefire.org) or calling 907-457-3710