

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 720
PO Box 220, Saint Marys, PA 15857

2026 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Bucktail Chapter 720 are proud to announce its 2026 Scholarship Program for qualified candidates. Recently, we increased our Scholarships from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00. This year we are proud to be able to continue our scholarships at \$1500.00 each. There will be a minimum of 7 Scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must be a relative of a Vietnam Veteran (living or deceased). Applicants can be a son, daughter, nephew/niece, grandchild, or a step relative.

Our Scholarships are being offered to graduating high school seniors who will attend a technical school program, or an undergraduate college program. The scholarships are also offered to current students in technical training programs, and those enrolled as an undergraduate student.

Scholarship winners must use the scholarship for a undergraduate degree, or technical school training. The scholarship amount will be returned to the VVA if the winner does not attend the technical school, or college.

Veterans with honorable discharges, and active or reserve member who have graduated from high school in the below school districts are welcome to apply.

Applicants must be attending, or have graduated from the following school districts:

Punxsutawney High School

St Marys Area High School and Elk County Catholic High School

Johnsonburg Area High School

Ridgway Area High School

Brockway Area High School

Cameron County, Emporium High School

Dubois Area High School and all private High Schools in the District

(DuBois Central Catholic High School and the DuBois Christian High School)

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You will need to submit the following:

Name, Telephone Number, and Address:

Year of High School Graduation:

Parents:

College or Technical School Attending:

Major or course of study:

Name and relationship to your veteran:

Branch of Service:

Date of Vietnam Service, or dates of the veteran applicant service, or dates of current military service, active or reserve.

“Brag Sheet” of your High School accomplishments while in school and other volunteer or special activities:

Note: The above identifying information shall be submitted separately from the essay. The essay should be on a separate piece of paper with nothing else.

A 500 word essay double space, times new roman, type 12, double spaced shall be submitted on one of the below topics :

- A. Who are the Seabees? What was their mission in the Vietnam War; provide some examples about their attempts to accomplish that mission?
- B. What is the history of Agent Orange? What disbursement methods were used in Vietnam: and how did Agent Orange effect our soldiers, marines, and airmen?
- C. Why did the US decide the Vietnam War was in the US interest?
- D. Who were the donut dollies; and what was their mission in the Vietnam War? Give some examples of their accomplishments in Vietnam.

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E. If the VVA has donated a book about the Vietnam War to your school library, the applicant can choose to read the book, and write an essay about the Vietnam War book.

Mail all the listed information including your “Brag Sheet” and essay to:

VVA Scholarship Program
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 220
St Marys, PA 15857

All Scholarship information must be submitted, or post marked by March 31, 2026. Scholarships winners will be determined by a Scholarship review committee. Scholarships will be award on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at the monthly VVA meeting. You must attend, and read your essay at our meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 to receive your scholarship award Check. Our meetings are held at the Fox Township American Legion, Post 511 in Dagus Mines, PA. The meeting starts at 7:00pm.

Essays submissions submitted after March 31 will not be considered.

If you are a recipient of a scholarships, you and your school Guidance counselor will be notified so your scholarship can be announced at your school’s awards program.

Questions may be address to the following individuals:

Gerri Muth at 814-583-7270; or

Don and Karen Aravich at 814-590-3625

FYI: This is how essays will be scored to determine winners

2026 Essay Evaluation Sheet

Essay #	Areas of Assessment	4 highest	3	2	1 lowest
Ideas	Presents ideas in an original manner	Presents ideas in a consistent manner	Ideas are too general	Ideas are vague or unclear	
Organization	Strong and organized beg/mid/end	Organized beg/mid/end at a beg/mid/end	Some organization; attempt at a beg/mid/end	No organization; lack beg/mid/end	
Understanding	Writing shows strong understanding	Writing shows a clear understanding	Writing shows adequate understanding	Writing shows little understanding	
Word Choice	Sophisticated use of nouns and verbs make the essay very informative	Nouns and verbs make essay informative	Needs more nouns and verbs	Little or no use of nouns and verbs	
Sentence Structure	Sentence structure enhances meaning; flows throughout the piece	Sentence structure is evident; sentences mostly flow	Sentence structure is sentences need to flow	Sentence structure is limited; No sense of sentence structure or flow	
Mechanics	Few (if any) errors	Few errors	Several errors	Numerous errors	
Submission	Essay on Separate Page with no Identifying Information add 2 points				
Total points					