



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America
A Fraternal Organization



Florida State Elks Association
C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship award from the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship Fund, you must:

1. Be a student in the graduating class of a high school or its related equivalent.
2. Seniors graduating at semester (December) must apply during the application year before they graduate.
3. Be a resident of the state of Florida.
4. Be a United States citizen.

Students Targeted:

The C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship is open to students who have maintained an un-weighted GPA of 2.30 to 3.59. **Students with an un-weighted GPA above 3.59 cannot apply.** We are looking for students who have demonstrated leadership through participation in school activities, community service, and citizenship. Special consideration is given to those students who have shouldered extra responsibility such as working throughout their high school career to help provide support for siblings or family.

Competition:

Boys and girls will compete for identical awards.

Awards and Amounts:

Annually, the Florida State Elks Association (FSEA) will offer scholarships to deserving graduating senior applicants in amounts ranging from \$3,000 to \$20,000 per recipient. These scholarships are funded by grants from the Elks National Foundation and fundraising campaigns by Florida Elks Charities with total funding expected to be about \$106,000 per year. At no time will total annual scholarships exceed funds that have been received for that year.

Scoring:

The following Merit Standards will prevail:

Financial Need	600 points	Community Service	50 points
Scholarship	400 points	Honors & Awards	50 points
Employment	150 points	Extracurricular	<u>50 points</u>
Leadership	100 points		
Essay	100 points	Total Possible Points	1,500 points



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GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

The Scholarship:

The scholarship is presented with the understanding that the recipient will enroll in a 4-year undergraduate program of study at an accredited American college or university, a junior college, an accredited vocational or technical training program, or a first responders academy. Upon receipt of verification of enrollment and proof of class attendance from the proper school officials, the FSEA will issue a check in the amount of the award which will be forwarded to the college, university, or community college to establish a credit in the name of the recipient.

Restrictions on Use of Scholarship:

There is no restriction for the use of the scholarship. It may be utilized for tuition, books, lab fees, tutoring, room & board, transportation, food, uniforms, etc.

Unacceptable Conduct:

All scholarship recipients are expected to be good citizens of their community. These principles of law and order and morality are supported by the Order of the Elks. Therefore, unexpended credit is subject to withdrawal by the FSEA if the conduct of the student is contrary to these principles.

Applications Become Property of the FSEA:

After completing this application, please save a copy for your records. All applications become the property of the Florida State Elks Association.

Award Distribution:

Scholarship funds must be disbursed within two years of award decision.



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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Applications must be submitted on the enclosed three-page scholarship application form pages 5-7. The application must be dated and signed by the student and a parent/guardian on page 5.
2. Parental financial information must be submitted on the current official form included in this packet's page 8. The information form must be dated, signed, and notarized on page 8. Generally, parental financial information is provided on the parent with whom the applicant resides if more than 50% of the time.
3. All applicants are required to submit a copy of their parent's/guardian's most current IRS Form 1040/1040A.
4. Unsigned or incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. Applications and all supporting documents must be in English.
6. It is preferable that exhibits such as awards and media items be photocopies.
7. When completing the application form, carefully plan a response to each item before typing the final draft. Pay close attention to the requirements for each section and secure all required dates.
8. If more room is needed to complete your responses for pages 6 or 7, you may continue them on one (1) separate sheet referring in the application that they are continued. On the added sheet, type the heading for the question(s) whose answer(s) is/are being continued on it. Include this sheet as the sixth page of your application.
9. All applicants are required to submit an essay answering the questions why you deserve a scholarship and what your future aspirations are. The essay must discuss the area of study where the scholarship will be applied, why that area was selected, and how your education will benefit society. The essay should be between 250 to 300 words in 12 pt. type and Times New Roman font. The essay must be dated and signed.
10. ACT or SAT scores must be submitted with your application. Photocopies are acceptable.
11. Your application package must contain at least one (1) but no more than two (2) letters of endorsement (originals or photocopies) from a high school teacher. The letter(s) may cover the applicant's work habits, leadership, personality, and integrity. Each letter should be typed, dated, signed, and be no longer than one side of an 8-1/2 by 11- inch page.
12. Your application package must contain at least one (1) but no more than two (2) letters of endorsement (originals or photocopies) from a responsible community (non-school) member. These persons should not be related to the applicant. They should be capable of reporting the applicant's participation in the community in terms of work, service, leadership skills, and outstanding recognition. Each letter should be typed, dated, signed, and be no longer than one side of an 8-1/2 by 11- inch page.
13. Your application package may contain up to three (3) pages of copies or exhibits depicting achievement in scholarship, leadership, athletics, dramatics, community service, or other activities.
14. Unopened official high school/home school transcripts must be submitted with your application. They must bear an original signature of the proper school authority or in the case of home-schooled applicants, the signature



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INSTRUCTIONS (continued)

of the proper school official of the district in which the student was home-schooled. Transcripts must cover student grades from the beginning of the 9th grade through the first semester of their senior year if available.

15. All applicants must provide the Counselor Report forms (pages 9 & 10) to their High School Counselor or Appropriate School Official and then obtain that report back from the Counselor in a sealed envelope. This envelope must be submitted with your application.

16. The application package, including all attachments and inclusions, must be submitted in a Mead folder with inside pockets and clasps. For the purposes of establishing citizenship, a copy of the applicant's driver's license, state issued identification, or U.S. passport should accompany the application.

17. All items except items received in a sealed envelope should be three hole punched and placed in the clasps of the folder and should be arranged in the following order:

- **Completed three-page Application form pages 5-7**
- **Answer Continuation Page for Application form** (One page if needed)
- **Completed Parental Financial Information form page 8** (signed & notarized)
- **Parental Financial Information Statement** (One page if needed)
- **Copy of the most current IRS Form 1040/1040A**
- **Applicant Essay**
- **SAT/ACT Scores**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Exhibits**
- **Unopened Official High School/Home School Transcripts ***
- **Unopened Counselor Report ***

*** These items should be placed in the pockets of the folder and not three hole punched.**



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2026 Academic Year Application
C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship

A Scholarship Program of the Florida State Elks Association
Based on Financial Need, Scholarship, and Leadership

Applicant's Full Name: _____

Applicant's Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Place of Birth: _____

High Schools Attended: (9th through 12th grades)

Name of School: _____ From/To: ____/____

Name of School: _____ From/To: ____/____

Name of School: _____ From/To: ____/____

Date you will graduate: ____/____/____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Local Elks Lodge Name: _____ Lodge Number: _____

Are you related to a Florida Elk? ____ Yes ____ No

If Yes, their Full Name: _____

Their Relation to You: _____

The Name & Number of the Lodge they are a Member of: _____

Their Member No. (from their Membership Card) _____

____/____/____

Date

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Mail completed application package to:
Florida State Elks Association, Inc.
HOPE Scholarship Committee
PO Box 49
Umatilla, FL 32784-0049

Overnight Address:
Florida State Elks Association, Inc.
HOPE Scholarship Committee
24175 SE Highway 450
Umatilla, FL 32784

Package must be received by the FSEA by 5 p.m. on January 15, 2026
Late Submissions Will Not Be Accepted
Questions, please contact Megan Menges at megan@floridaelks.org



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Work Experience/Employment History

List jobs held starting with the most recent and include work on a family farm or for a family business even if you were not paid.

Type of Work	Employer	Dates of Employment	Approx. Hrs./Week	Was Work to Support Siblings/Family?

Leadership and Extracurricular Activities

List your principal leadership roles and extracurricular activities in order of importance to you. Examples include but are not limited to student government, publications, debate, orchestra/band, varsity athletics, church groups, performing arts, and service programs.

Organization	Years Involved	Leadership Role/Responsibilities	Approx. Hrs./Week

Honors and Awards

Include all scholastic, extracurricular, and civic honors and awards earned during high school and describe each. Please include only significant honors and awards.

Honor/Award	Description	Year Awarded



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Community Service

List volunteer work or community service you performed without pay during the last 4 years.

Kind of Work	Name of Agency or Organization	Dates of Participation	Total Hours of Service

College Plans

Please rank the order of the factors most likely to influence your college enrollment decision:

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Academic Reputation of College | _____ Size of the College |
| _____ Job Opportunities for Graduates of the College | _____ College's Reputation for Social Activities |
| _____ Financial Assistance from the College | _____ College's Proximity near Home |
| _____ Cost of Attending the College | _____ Parent's Wish for you to attend the College |

Other Financial Aid

Please list all other financial aid, grants, or scholarships awarded or anticipated:

Applicant Essay

Topic: "Why you deserve a scholarship and what your future aspirations are."

Applicants are required to write an essay of 250-300 words in 12 pt. type, Times New Roman font. The essay must be dated and signed.

The essay must include answers to the following:

1. The area of study where the scholarship would be applied
2. Why this area was selected
3. How your education will benefit society
4. What college or school you are currently considering



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PARENTAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In addition to the most current tax return, a 200 word or less statement may be included summarizing the family's obligations, resources, and any other extenuating circumstances.

Father's/Stepfather's Name: _____
Age _____ Occupation _____

Mother's/Stepmother's Name: _____
Age _____ Occupation _____

Custodial Parent's Marital Status:

Father: ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Remarried ☐ Separated ☐ Single
Mother: ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐ Remarried ☐ Separated ☐ Single

With whom does student make his/her permanent home? _____
Mother Father Both Other

A. Dependents - List names and ages of all dependents:

B. Number of dependent children above attending college in academic year **2026-27**
on at least a half-time basis (including applicant) _____

C. **2025-2026** Estimated Medical and Dental Expenses not paid by insurance \$ _____
(If over \$5000, please explain circumstances in parental statement.)

D. Amount student has from work, savings, assets, and other scholarships. \$ _____

_____/_____/_____
Date Signature of Parent/Guardian

Notary Stamp and Signature:

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

County: _____



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COUNSELOR REPORT

Student/Applicant: Complete the top portion of this page and give it to your counselor or appropriate school official. This section can be completed by your counselor before you are finished with the application.

Counselor: Please complete the requested information and then return to the student in a sealed envelope to be included in their application package.

Student name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Counselor: Please include a copy of your school profile (if available) and answer the following questions even if the information is included in the profile. If your school has a policy of not ranking students, please provide information to help us identify promising applicants.

The Florida State Elks Association **WILL NOT** return this form to the student.

The applicant's unweighted GPA: _____ The highest unweighted GPA in the graduating class: _____

Class rank: The applicant ranks _____ in a class of _____.

How many students have this rank? _____ How many rank above? _____ Is the rank based on weighted grades? _____/_____
yes no

Applicant's **highest** test scores: **ACT:** _____/Date(s) taken _____

SAT: Critical Reading _____ Math _____/Date(s) taken _____

Are honors courses available in all academic subjects? _____/_____
yes no

If not, in which subjects are they offered?

Are Advanced Placement courses available in all academic subjects? _____/_____
yes no

If not, in which subjects are Advanced Placement courses available?



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COUNSELOR REPORT (continued)

What symbols are used on the transcript to designate honors or Advanced Placement courses?

How is your school's academic schedule based? _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Semester Quarter Block Other

How would you describe this applicant's academic program compared with that of other students applying for scholarships?

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____
Below average Average Above average Rigorous Most Rigorous

Is there a community service requirement to graduate? _____ If yes, how many hours? _____
yes/no

Has the applicant ever been suspended or dismissed from school? _____ / _____
yes no

If yes, please explain the circumstances.

I recommend this applicant for the C. Valentine Bates Memorial HOPE Scholarship. _____ / _____ If no, please explain:

yes no

Please secure the following items in a sealed envelope, signed across the seal, and give to the student to include with their application:

_____ Completed Counselor Report Form _____ School Profile (if available)

.....

NAME: _____ Position: _____ School phone: _____
(please print)

School e-mail: _____ Length of time acquainted with applicant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____