

Lincoln Land Chapter Military Officers Association of America Scholarship Program for Academic Year- Fall 2026

Lincoln Land Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (“MOAA”) announces its Scholarship Program for the Academic Year which begins in the Fall 2026. The Scholarship Program for Academic Year-Fall 2026 award shall be made solely based on an Applicant’s submission in response to this announcement. No other criteria will be considered.

I. INFORMATION FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR- FALL 2026.

A. The Scholarship Program for Academic Year- Fall 2026 essay topic shall be:

"Reflections on those who Serve America"

B. There will be **one** Scholarship Award in the amount of: \$1,000.00.

C. To be considered, Applicant essay and required documents **must be postmarked on or before Jun 17, 2026**, and mailed (no other form of delivery is permissible) to:

LTC (Ret) Mark R. DePue
MOAA-Lincoln Land Chapter Scholarship Program
613 Catskill Drive
Springfield, IL 62711

D. The Scholarship Program Award Winner will be contacted not later than late July 2026, and the award presentation date will be during the Chapter’s Island Bay Yacht Club event.

E. In satisfaction of the Scholarship Program, Applicant shall attend a meeting or event of a military or veteran’s organization or military institution, spending sufficient time with the members of the organization to prepare observations. Following the activity, the applicant will write an essay (see essay requirements below) on that organization or event, and what they learned about the service, sacrifice and commitment of current or former military members to their country. Organizations or events could include the following or similar activities: (Applicant should not attend events or facilities which would cast MOAA in an unfavorable light.)

1. Attend a drill with a local National Guard or Reserve unit, interacting with unit leaders and others.
2. Attend a veteran’s discussion group at a local veteran’s center.
3. Spend time with a college ROTC unit and speak with cadets and a ROTC cadre member.
4. Volunteer at the Illinois Military Museum or similar institution.
5. Attend a military or other military-related ceremony such as a Memorial Day event, and interview veterans who were present.

F. The following items constitute the Applicant's Scholarship Program for Academic Year- Fall 2026 submission. Only those Applicant submissions that contain ALL items listed below will be eligible for consideration:

1. The scholarship essay will be type-written on the announced topic and in accordance with the instructions in paragraph E, above. The essay shall contain a minimum of 1,000 words and a maximum of 1,500 words. Applicants shall develop the topic as they deem appropriate. However, the essay must be the original and exclusive work of the Applicant.
2. CERTIFICATION of relationship to a Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA Member and Applicant Age. (The enclosure to this announcement shall be used for this purpose.)
3. The designation of an institution of higher education that Applicant will be attending in the Fall 2026. The applicant must provide the name and address of the institution of higher education the Applicant is, or will be, enrolled in for the Fall 2026 semester (or equivalent).

G. ELIGIBILITY.

A. An Applicant to this Scholarship Program for Academic Year- Fall 2026 can be a Member or; the spouse; natural, adopted or foster child; stepchild; grandchild; great grandchild, niece or nephew of any Member of the Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA. A Member of Lincoln Chapter MOAA is a person who meets the membership requirements specified in Article IV of the Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA Bylaws and who is considered "in good standing" (current in payment of Chapter dues).

B. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age on or before September 1, 2026.

C. Applicants must be enrolled in or accepted for enrollment into an institution of higher education for the Fall 2026 semester (or equivalent) for a minimum of nine semester hours or equivalency. An institution of higher education may be a program, junior college, college, university, technical or trade school, which awards a degree, diploma or certification upon completion of its curriculum. Providing the institution meets the foregoing requirement, the Scholarship Award shall be made without regard to awardee's academic level. As an example, an awardee may be a Ph.D. candidate, a graduate or undergraduate student, a junior college student, or a student at a trade school. For at least six of the nine qualifying semester hours (or equivalent) applicant must be scheduled to attend courses in a residence, as differing from on-line (Internet) course enrollment status.

D. An awardee may not apply for another Scholarship Award for five years or until August 2031.

H. GENERAL INFORMATION.

A. Only essays prepared in Word® can be accepted. Applicant must be prepared to submit an electronic version of their essay at the request of the Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

B. The Chapter Scholarship Committee will judge essays not just on the content of the paper, but also based on grammar, spelling, topical development and presentation. The essay will be formatted in accordance with the latest Modern Language Association (MLA) guidance. Essays shall be evaluated using *Harbrace College Handbook* and *Webster's New World Dictionary* as guides. Sources used in the essay must be properly cited.

C. The Certification page, the enclosure to this announcement, shall be used as the cover page for Applicant essays. No title page or any other form of essay identification shall be used.

- D. Applicant must designate and provide evidence of their acceptance into, or attendance at, an institution of higher education. Items considered to meet this requirement include acceptance letters, recent grade reports, or similar official documents. Based on this information, the Chapter Scholarship Committee shall determine if the residency requirement has been or will be met.
- E. All decisions made by the Chapter Scholarship Committee are final.
- F. All Applicant submissions become the exclusive property of the Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA.
- G. Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA will not be responsible for any delays in receiving Applicant submissions.
- H. If no Applicant essays are received; or if, in the judgment of the Chapter Scholarship Committee, the submissions are inadequate; or if the Scholarship Program Award Winner is later determined to be ineligible for Scholarship Award, the Scholarship Award may be suspended for that Award Year.
- I. The awardee will be notified in advance, and will be requested to attend, as a guest, a Chapter meeting to be recognized as the Scholarship Program Award Winner.
- J. The Scholarship Program will be given maximum publicity by the Chapter and may include newspaper articles, Award presentation at commencement exercises, notification to school officials and other actions deemed appropriate. Awardee agrees to reasonably participate in such activities.
- K. Any tax liability resulting from an Award shall be the sole responsibility of the Awardee.
- L. In the event circumstances prevent the awardee from attending an institution of higher education at the beginning of Academic Year-Fall 2026, providing awardee meets the eligibility requirements in paragraph II C (for any semester equivalent through Spring 2027) the awardee retains the right to receive this Scholarship Amount.

CERTIFICATION

On this form, Applicant must provide a statement of their relationship to a Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA Member, birthday and contact information. The lower portion of the form must be completed and countersigned by the named Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA Member.

BY APPLICANT

"I, _____, hereby state that I am the _____ to
(Applicant Name) (Relationship)

_____, a Member of Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA." Further, I
(Lincoln Land Chapter MOAA Member's Name)

certify that my birthday is _____, and in the Fall of 2026 I plan to attend the
(Month) (Day) (Year)

following institution of higher education: _____.

Date: _____
(Signature of Applicant)

Print Name _____

Applicant's Address _____

Applicant's Phone Number _____

Applicant's e-mail Address _____

BY LINCOLN LAND CHAPTER MOAA MEMBER

"I, _____, a Member in good standing of Lincoln Land
(Lincoln Land MOAA Chapter Member Name)

Chapter MOAA, certifies that the above-named individual, _____ is
(Applicant Name)

my _____."
(State Relationship)

Date: _____
(Member Signature)

(Print Name)