



## **The NYPD With Arms Wide Open Detective Steven McDonald Memorial Scholarship**

### **SCHOLARSHIP MISSION STATEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS**

The mission of NYPD With Arms Wide Open is to provide a forum where police officers of all ranks, and their families, can attend meetings and discuss issues surrounding being the parents/guardians/caretakers of a child with special needs. Often times, families with special needs children feel isolated and are in need of an organization that addresses their very specific needs and issues. NYPD With Arms Wide Open helps these families care for their children while navigating through the culture, complexities and dangers of being a member of the New York City Police Department.

As an officer with the NYPD, Steven McDonald was questioning three young men in Central Park one summer day in 1986 when one of them shot him three times – leaving him paralyzed from the neck down, and dependent on a breathing apparatus. After a long recovery and rehabilitation, Detective McDonald spoke to thousands of students in schools up and down the East Coast. Aside from recounting the harrowing events of the day that changed his life, McDonald focused on his remarkable journey and the power of perseverance and forgiveness.

In the spirit of all that Detective Steven McDonald stood for, NYPD With Arms Wide Open has established a scholarship award for students within the NYPD community living with special needs or those who are the family members of an individual with special needs,

**Applicant must have a family member within the NYPD** (*parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle or cousin*) and be a graduating high school senior, with good academic and disciplinary standing who meet one or both of the following criteria:

- 1.) Is a student of the special needs community\*
- 2.) Is the sibling of an individual with special needs\*

*\* Special needs must be a documented physical, developmental or learning disability.*

**- ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019 -**

## APPLICATION FORM

Please return this form (*all pages completed*), as well as the following documents:

1. A signed letter of recommendation from a teacher, therapist, coach, member of the clergy, or any non-family member. Please ask them to highlight your contributions to the special needs community.
2. Your personal essay with each page **marked with your date of birth only**. Please remove your name and any other identifying information. This ensures a completely transparent voting process for the scholarship committee.
3. A brief personal bio (one page) and high resolution (.JPG) headshot or Senior Portrait to be published in the Dinner Dance Journal should applicant be awarded scholarship
4. A copy of your college or vocational school acceptance letter, or a list of the top 3-5 schools you have applied to.

***Only electronic entries sent to [jennifer\\_oreilly@live.com](mailto:jennifer_oreilly@live.com) in PDF format will be acknowledged by the scholarship committee. Submissions will be accepted up to and including Friday, March 1, 2019. E-mail confirmation will be sent once completed entry is received. Please note that applications sent via USPS will not be read or considered for scholarship award. If there are any questions or anticipated complications with the application submission process, please call 914-525-2836 to discuss in further detail.***

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Command/Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Command/Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** (Attach an additional sheet if necessary.) List all school and/or individual activities in which you have participated in the last four years (sports, the arts, student government, clubs, volunteer projects, religious groups, scouting, etc.).

ACTIVITY	DATES	HONORS/LEADERSHIP, if any

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** (Attach an additional sheet if necessary.) List any paid work experiences you have had in the past four years.

POSITION	HRS PER WEEK	FROM DATE TO DATE

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By submitting this form, applicant is confirming that permission is granted to publicize receipt of the scholarship if this application is selected, including photographs or other images in connection with such publication. Should applicant be granted the award, participation and attendance at the May 9, 2018 NYPD With Arms Wide Open Dinner Dance is mandatory. Event will be held at Antun's of Queens, 96-43 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village, NY. Recipient will be awarded three tickets to the event for themselves and their parents/guardians. Any additional tickets for extended family and friends may be purchased for the fundraising event.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Guidance Counselor/Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL ESSAY FORM

Essay should be at least two pages type-written and double-spaced. We ask that you include an introduction about your personal and life experience and how it relates to the mission statement of NYPD With Arms Wide Open (visit [www.nypdwawo.org](http://www.nypdwawo.org) for more information) Next, incorporate any **two** of the following questions in your personal essay and be sure to include your detailed response to the closing statement:

- Do you think that having special needs, or being a family member of an individual with special needs has shaped the way you look at life? How?
- Do you think everyone, regardless of disability has the ability to lead by example? Explain.
- What motivates you to spend your time in community service with children/ individuals with special needs? What did you give up in order to pursue your service?
- What would a peer in a group you lead and/or perform service with say about you and your service to special needs individuals?

**CLOSING STATEMENT** - How has the life story of Detective Steven McDonald inspired you as an individual with special needs, or the family member or friend of an individual with special needs? What message, like Detective McDonald's message of peace and forgiveness, would you speak about to others if given the platform?

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*NYPD With Arms Wide Open is a A 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that is available to all cops, active and retired regardless of rank who has a child with special needs. Further information can be found by visiting our website at [www.nypdwawo.org](http://www.nypdwawo.org)*