



2024 NYSAFC Scholarship and Awards Program

Scholarship Program

NYSAFC established this program to enhance, through academic achievement at the college level, the quality of leadership in the fire and emergency services, life safety field, and public safety field and to assist association Individual Members in their pursuit of academic advancement. Scholarships will be awarded in memory of Executive Director Emeritus Ward A. Bohner and his wife, Janice R. Bohner, and in memory of Past President Anthony J. "Andy" Messina for their years of dedicated service to the association. Tuition assistance is offered based upon merit to Individual Members of NYSAFC (and their spouses and children) pursuing degrees (full or part time) at an accredited institution of higher education. The Messina Scholarship is awarded to students working toward an emergency services degree (fire science, EMS, emergency management, etc.) and the Bohner Scholarship is awarded to those pursuing a general course of study in any other field.

Chief Neil McNeight Hands-On Training Award

This award program was established by the Chautauqua County & Monroe County Fire Chiefs Hospitality Committee in memory of Past President Neil McNeight, a 60-year member of the association and 64-year member of the Fredonia Fire Department. It is intended to advance firefighter training by funding the registration of qualified and deserving students in the Hands-On Training program conducted in conjunction with the association's Annual Conference & FIRE Expo. The award program, open to NYSAFC Individual and Department Members, will include enrollment in the Hands-On Training session of the recipient's choice (based on availability), conference and expo registration, hotel accommodations for two nights, and a meal stipend.

New York State Fire Chief of the Year Awards

The Fire Chief of the Year Awards are presented to recognize association Individual Members for demonstration of exemplary leadership that has not only benefited an individual fire department, but also the emergency services of New York state. NYSAFC honors a career fire chief and a volunteer fire chief based upon their demonstration of outstanding leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public, and contributions to the fire and emergency services.

Chief Fred W. Singer Fire Educator of the Year Award

The Fire Educator of the Year Award is presented in memory of Past President Fred W. Singer, a 40-year member of the Vestal Fire Department who was a highly regarded teacher and champion of firefighter safety and training. This award recognizes outstanding effort in fire service training and education. Any NYSAFC Individual Member who is a fire service instructor providing training within the state of New York at the state, county, or department level is eligible for the award.

James W. Wright Public Education Award

This award is presented in memory of Public Education Committee Chairman James W. Wright, a 53-year member of the Norwich Fire Department. The award, which Jim helped to initiate in 1995, was renamed in 2009 in appreciation of his years of service. It recognizes an individual, emergency services agency, or community organization for innovation and exceptional effort in fire/injury prevention and fire/life safety public education, with the goal of raising awareness about unique programs for the benefit of other educators.

Questions? (800) 676-FIRE • info@nysfirechiefs.com

Scholarship Program 2024 Application

Ward A. and Janice R. Bohner Award • Anthony J. Messina Award



Award Details and Presentation:

- Through this program, NYSAFC provides scholarship grants to qualified students seeking to advance their education in their chosen field of study. Assistance is offered based upon merit to individuals pursuing a degree (full or part time) at an accredited institution of higher education.
- Scholastic achievement, quality of essay, references, overall career goals, and potential to favorably impact the fire and emergency services, life safety field, or public safety field will be considered when judging applicants.
- Scholarship is to be applied toward tuition or related academic fees, such as books.
- No more than one scholarship will be granted per family each year.
- All NYSAFC award recipients will be recognized during the NYSAFC Annual Conference General Session. If a scholarship recipient is unable to attend, arrangements will be made to present the award at a local firematic event.
- Recipient and two guests will receive Full Term Registration for entry to the conference and expo.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Individual Member of NYSAFC in good standing (dues paid in full) or must be the spouse or child of an Individual Member in good standing.
- Must be enrolled (full or part time) in a matriculated college level program attending an accredited community/junior college, college, or university, and working toward an associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or professional degree.

Required Items For Consideration:

- Completed application.
- Letter of recommendation from the chief officer of the NYSAFC Individual Member's fire department/organization.
- Two additional letters of recommendation.
- Proof of enrollment at the institution of higher education (letter of acceptance, etc.).
- Essay (approximately 500 words) on the applicant's career plans and academic studies. If applicable, illustrate how career plans and studies will favorably impact the quality of leadership and service in the fire and emergency services or public safety field. Include why financial aid is being sought and any other information relevant to the selection process.

Applicant Information:

☐ Applicant is a NYSAFC Member ☐ Parent/Guardian is a NYSAFC Member ☐ Spouse is a NYSAFC Member

NYSAFC Individual Member Name: _____ NYSAFC Membership #: _____

Applicant Name (If Different): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Applicant Fire Department Affiliation (If Applicable):

Department: _____ Title: _____

Institution and Degree Information:

Institution Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Course of Study: _____

Degree Pursuing: ☐ Associate's ☐ Bachelor's ☐ Master's ☐ Doctorate ☐ Professional

Submit Required Materials Postmarked By April 1, 2024 To:

New York State Association of Fire Chiefs

1670 Columbia Turnpike • P.O. Box 328 • East Schodack, NY 12063-0328 • Email: info@nysfirechiefs.com

Chief Neil McNeight Hands-On Training Award

2024 Application



Award Details and Presentation:

- Two awards will be presented by the **Chautauqua County & Monroe County Fire Chiefs Hospitality Committee** for participation in training at the 118th Annual Conference & FIRE 2024 Expo in Syracuse, NY.
- Award covers enrollment in one Hands-On Training program of the recipient's choice (based on availability).
- Recipient will receive Full Term Registration for entry to the conference classroom education programs and expo.
- Includes small stipend for meals and lunch on the day of training (for 8-hour training programs).
- Includes hotel accommodations for two nights at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.
- Recipient will be responsible for transportation and all travel expenses.
- All NYSAFC award recipients will be recognized during the NYSAFC Annual Conference General Session.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a NYSAFC Individual Member or applicant's fire department must be a NYSAFC Department Member.
- Must meet NYSAFC Hands-On Training course prerequisites (or equivalents): Firefighter I OR Basic Firefighter and Intermediate Firefighter OR Firefighting Essentials and Initial Fire Attack. Must be interior qualified under New York state requirements to participate in live fire training programs.
- Must meet course PPE requirements, which will be provided if applicant is selected.
- Must have the endorsement of the chief of department to complete training. If applicant is selected, chief will also be required to submit a NYSAFC chief's authorization letter. Sample will be provided.

Required Items For Consideration:

- Completed application.
- Essay (approximately 500 words) written by applicant explaining how participation in this training will be of personal benefit and how it will positively impact his/her fire department.
- NYSAFC chief's authorization letter, if applicant is selected. Sample will be provided.

Hands-On Training Programs:

Training will be conducted from June 12-14 at the Syracuse Fire Department Training Center. 8-hour programs run from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (lunch included). Morning and afternoon sessions are available for 4-hour programs (Session A: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and Session B: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.). See NYSAFC website for course descriptions: www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2024hot

- **Advanced Thermal Imaging Camera Ops** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Advanced Vehicle Extrication** (8-Hour Program)
- **Engine Company Ops** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Fire Behavior On the Inside** (8-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Firefighter Rescue: Do You Have What It Takes?** (4-Hour Program)
- **First-In Officers' Responsibilities** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Hoarder Fires** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Truck Ops: Forcible Entry/Ground Ladders** (4-Hour Live Program)
- **Truck Ops: Roof/Saws** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)
- **Truck Ops: Search and Rescue** (4-Hour Live Fire Program)

Chief Neil McNeight Hands-On Training Award

2024 Application

Applicant Information:

Name: _____ NYSAFC Membership #: _____

Department: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Department's Annual Training Budget: \$ _____

Chief's Endorsement:

Chief's Name: _____ Chief's Signature: _____

Hands-On Training Program Selection:

Choose one program and session. If the first choice is full, the award recipient will be contacted to select an alternate program and/or session.

Advanced Thermal Imaging Camera Ops

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Advanced Vehicle Extrication

☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday

Engine Company Ops

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Fire Behavior On the Inside

☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

Firefighter Rescue: Do You Have What It Takes?

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

First-In Officers' Responsibilities

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Hoarder Fires

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Truck Ops: Forcible Entry/Ground Ladders

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Truck Ops: Roof/Saws

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Truck Ops: Search and Rescue

Wednesday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Thursday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

Friday ☐ Session A ☐ Session B

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New York State Fire Chief of the Year Awards

2024 Nomination Form



Award Details and Presentation:

- Two awards will be given, one for a career fire chief and one for a volunteer fire chief. The status of the fire department as a whole – paid, volunteer, or combination – will not be considered.
- If NYSAFC does not receive a nominee for a category, the association executive board, with the approval of the president, may select an award recipient.
- All NYSAFC award recipients will be recognized during the NYSAFC Annual Conference General Session.
- Recipient and one guest will receive Full Term Registration for entry to the conference and expo.
- Includes hotel accommodations for one night (choice of Wednesday or Thursday) at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

Nominee Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Individual Member of NYSAFC in good standing (dues paid in full).
- Must be an active or past chief of department (five trumpets).
- Members of the NYSAFC executive board are ineligible.

Required Items For Consideration:

- Completed nomination form.
- Cover letter on nominating organization's letterhead.
- Current resume detailing nominee's involvement in the fire service.
- Supporting documents, such as letters of recommendation, news stories, etc. (maximum of six).

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ NYSAFC Membership #: _____

Department: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Award Category: ☐ Career ☐ Volunteer

Nominating Individual Contact Information:

Name: _____

Department/Organization: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

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Chief Fred W. Singer Fire Educator of the Year Award

2024 Nomination Form



Award Details and Presentation:

- All NYSAFC award recipients will be recognized during the NYSAFC Annual Conference General Session.
- Recipient and one guest will receive Full Term Registration for entry to the conference and expo.

Nominee Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be an Individual Member of NYSAFC in good standing (dues paid in full).
- Must serve as a fire service instructor providing training within New York state (at the state, county, and/or department level).

Required Items For Consideration:

- Completed nomination form.
- Essay (approximately 500 words) that provides information about the candidate and his/her activities as a fire instructor. Include emergency services background, years of service as an instructor, frequency and location of instruction, impact on the community and the fire service, and goals of the instructor.
- Letters of reference (maximum of three).

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ NYSAFC Membership #: _____

Department/Organization: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Nominating Individual Contact Information:

Name: _____

Department/Organization: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

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James W. Wright Public Education Award

2024 Nomination Form



Award Details and Presentation:

- Individuals and organizations are invited to nominate themselves or others for consideration.
- NYSAFC seeks to recognize resourceful and creative individuals or organizations for the presentation of new, unique, and/or innovative fire/life safety programs. These can be specialized activities presented annually (possibly as part of an education program or campaign) or conducted continuously throughout the entire year.
- All NYSAFC award recipients will be recognized during the NYSAFC Annual Conference General Session.
- Recipient and one guest will receive Full Term Registration for entry to the conference and expo.

Nominee Eligibility Criteria:

- Any individual emergency services personnel or any emergency services department or organization that provides public education focusing on fire and/or life safety in New York state is eligible for consideration.
- Any individual community educator or community organization that provides public education focusing on fire and/or life safety in New York state is eligible for consideration, including schools, individual teachers, civic organizations, etc.

Required Items For Consideration:

- Completed nomination form.
- Essay (approximately 500 words) that provides a brief overview of the program and illustrates what sets it apart from other public education programs. Include when the program was developed and implemented, where and when it has been delivered, its benefits, goals, and objectives, how it impacts the community, frequency of presentation, length of the program, and the target audience (children, teenagers, adults, senior citizens, etc.).
- Letters of reference (maximum of three) and supporting documents (maximum of three).

I Am Nominating: ☐ Another Individual ☐ Another Organization ☐ Myself ☐ My Organization

Nominee Information:

Type of Nominee: ☐ Individual ☐ Fire/EMS Department/Organization ☐ Community Organization

Name of Individual Nominee or Contact Person for Organization Nominee: _____

Nominee/Contact Person Title: _____

Department/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____ Website (If Applicable): _____

Nominating Individual Contact Information (If Different):

Name: _____ Title: _____

Department/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email: _____

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