

"I love being in school and gaining knowledge to better articulate my thoughts and experiences in language that civilians can understand as well as appreciate [...] This award will allow me to continue pursuing my education without added debt [...] With this scholarship award, I will be able to gain a better foothold to serve my comrades and citizens."



**- Paul B.**



"After being discharged from the Marines, I did not know what life had in store for me and I was forced to reassess all of my dreams. After several months, I fixed my sights on becoming an attorney with hopes that I could help my local community and

contribute once more to my country [...] Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough to express my gratitude, but it is all I have at this time. So, from the bottom of my heart thank you for helping me to get one step closer to making my dreams a reality!"

**- Joshua E.**

"I am currently taking college classes at Paradise Valley Community College to become an environmental engineer. Along the way, I also became a mother to a beautiful baby girl who I love with everything I am [...] Upon my graduation from [The University of Arizona] I plan on returning to my home, the Navajo Nation, to work with my people, and others, to preserve and protect our homeland and its natural resources [...] This support will not go unappreciated; my little family thanks you as well."



**- Courtney E.**

**SportClips**  
HAIRCUTS

**VFW**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
406 West 34th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
816-756-3390  
HelpAHero@vfw.org

**HELP A HERO**  
SCHOLARSHIP ★ PROGRAM



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# HELP A HERO

## SCHOLARSHIP ★ PROGRAM

### What is Help A Hero?

Sport Clips Haircuts, the nation's leading men's and boys' hair care provider, is a major supporter of the VFW and is also its "Official Haircutter". Since 2007, Sport Clips locations across the U.S. have helped U.S. service members connect with their loved ones by participating in the company's Help A Hero fundraising campaign, benefitting the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Operation Uplink™ Free Call Days. Through company and client donations, more than 2 million calls have been made possible - and counting!

Sport Clips continues to support the Free Call Days for deployed and hospitalized service members, but in the fall of 2013, the company expanded Help A Hero to support veterans as they *return* home through the gift of scholarships! The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program" will help service members, like you, get the education and training needed to begin the *next* chapter of your life.

Continue reading to learn more about the scholarship and how to apply.

### What is the VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program?

Each scholarship will provide recipients with up to \$5,000 to apply toward their education at an accredited post-secondary institution, including universities, colleges and trade schools. While the program is funded by Sport Clips' Help A Hero campaign, the VFW manages the scholarship program. Management functions include accepting applications, determining and awarding recipients, notification of award determinations and denials, and administering scholarships directly to the schools.

### Am I eligible to apply?

Review the scholarship program criteria below. If you can check each box, you're eligible!

The applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, Technical school, Follow-On Training, etc.)
- Have or separated with a military pay grade of E-5 or below
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution

### How do I apply?

The scholarship application is available online at [VFW.org](http://VFW.org). Go to the "Assistance" page and click "College Scholarships". You will find a program overview, a helpful Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide, and a link to the application.

Please note: Application must be submitted online using the form on [VFW.org](http://VFW.org). Applications submitted by U.S. mail, e-mail, and fax will not be accepted.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### What is the cut-off date for applications?

Applications for fall semester will be accepted January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> and applications for spring semester will be accepted August 1<sup>st</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### How often can I apply for the scholarship?

You may apply once per academic semester.

#### I haven't been deployed. Can I still apply?

Yes, as long as you have completed basic training and AIT, Technical or Follow-On training.

#### I'm not currently enrolled in school (or) I've been accepted, but haven't made a final decision on which school to attend. Can I still apply?

Yes! You are eligible to apply as long as you've been accepted to a school, even if you haven't enrolled in classes yet. If you've been accepted to multiple schools, please list the school you are favoring on the application.

#### Once I've applied, will I be notified of the scholarship decision outcome?

Yes. The VFW will notify every applicant whether they are chosen as a recipient, or not.

Members that receive denial letters are highly encouraged to re-apply provided that they still meet the eligibility criteria.

#### Who do I speak with for more information?

Contact the VFW at [HelpAHero@vfw.org](mailto:HelpAHero@vfw.org)

