



READING AREA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM, INC.
501 South 5th Street, Reading, PA 19602

website: www.readingareafirefightersmuseum.com
facebook: ReadingPAFireMuseum

February 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT The Board of Directors and Members of the Reading Area Firefighters Museum is pleased to announce the continuation of the John J. Zolomij Memorial Scholarship. This award will be presented to a current Berks County Junior Firefighter or child of a Berks County firefighter in the Spring of 2024.

John J. Zolomij (1947-2020) built a career in museum leadership starting in the 1980s. Mr. Zolomij was recognized nationally, as a distinguished specialist and consultant in art history and museum design. A lifelong educator, John is remembered for leveraging his skills and contacts to uplift people around him, mentoring young people, planning educational tours and serving both friends and strangers in need. John was an esteemed consultant to our Museum, and a friend.

OBJECTIVE The primary aim of this scholarship is to provide a Junior Firefighter or child of a current Berks County Firefighter reimbursement for tuition or materials that need to be purchased for post secondary education.

AMOUNT The scholarship award amount will be a one time (\$1,000) one thousand dollar reimbursement to the selected candidate.

CRITERIA The candidate needs to provide the Museum Selection Committee with the following information:

FOR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER

- ✓ Log or list of Fire Company activities
- ✓ Short explanation, by candidate, on why they deserve to be selected and future plans
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation from Home Fire Company
(Fire Chief or Assistant / Line Officer / current firefighter (non relative))

FOR CHILD OF CURRENT BERKS COUNTY FIREFIGHTER

- ✓ List of School activities you participate in
- ✓ Short explanation, by candidate, on why they deserve to be selected and future plans
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation (teacher / minister/ friend) non-relative
- ✓ Letter from fire company officer verifying parent is a member of fire company

Participation in an interview is a requirement for all Scholarship Finalists
Please see attached for more information and Application Form
and refer any questions to: kbjr16@comcast.net

APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

Reading Area Firefighters Museum John J. Zolomij Memorial Scholarship

Objective – To provide a Junior Firefighter or child of a current Berks County Firefighter with tuition or assist in purchase of school materials needed to continue their post high school education (example – college, trade school, nursing school) to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). If selected, applicant must also present a letter of acceptance from said institution.

Candidate selected for the scholarship must then provide receipts for (\$1,000) scholarship reimbursement. Any Junior Firefighter who belongs to a Berks County Fire Company/Department or any child of a current Berks County Firefighter is eligible.

Criteria – Candidate needs to provide Museum Selection Committee with information on: (* PLEASE TYPE)

Junior Firefighters

- ✓ Log of Fire Company activities *
- ✓ Short explanation by candidate on why they deserve to be selected and future plans*
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation from home Fire Company by Fire Chief or Assistant Chief / Line Officer / current firefighter (non-relative)*

For Child of current Berks County Firefighter

- ✓ List of school activities you participate in*
- ✓ Short explanation by candidate on why they deserve to be selected and future plans*
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation (teacher / minister / friend)* (non relative)
- ✓ Letter from fire company officer verifying parent is a member of fire company*

Applications – Please copy if additional applications are needed, or applications can also be found on our website : www.readingareafirefightersmuseum.com under scholarship.

Timeline - All applications must be received by **April 15, 2024**
Winner announced May 6, 2024

Selection Committee - Selection Committee shall decide the winner, using a blind evaluation process, based on a scale of one (1) to (10) ten (10 being highest) in each of three areas. (Log of Activities * / Short Explanation* / Letters of Recommendation)

In the event of a tie, Museum Board of Directors shall select the winner.
The members of the RAFM extend an invitation to all applicants to visit and tour the Museum. As an incentive to encourage your visit, we offer a free personal tour to you and a guest.

Participation in an interview is a requirement for all Scholarship Finalists.

APPLICATION FORM

Reading Area Firefighters Museum John J. Zolomij Memorial Scholarship

Name _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Fire Company / Department _____

For Junior Firefighters: Began service with above fire company
(approximate date)

_____ Your Phone # _____

Please remember to type * and attach the following to this sheet of paper :

Junior Firefighters: Items listed on Applicant Information Sheet

Children of current Firefighters : Items listed on Applicant Information Sheet

Forward this application form along with above items requested to:

Harry Koppenberg
1865 Berks Street
Reading, PA 19604

Please refer any questions, tour arrangements or any other requests to:
kbjr16@comcast.net

Application forms may be duplicated