

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE SPOUSES' CLUB
EVELYN SILVA SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION
2026 - 2027 ACADEMIC YEAR



The Evelyn Silva Scholarship Award of Excellence (ESSAE) was established in 2010 to honor Mrs. Silva, a longstanding member and pillar of the Enlisted Spouses' Club, now the Fort Meade Spouses' Club (FMSC) and Fort Meade community.

The award recipient must be a graduating high school senior who best exemplifies Mrs. Silva's passion and dedication to serving her community. After the **March 20, 2026** postmark deadline, the scholarship committee will evaluate the completed application package.

Potential scholarship candidates will be contacted at the end of March by the Scholarship Director to schedule an in person interview. These in person interviews will be held in April on Fort Meade.

This scholarship will be applied to the 2026-2027 academic school year. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for this competitive scholarship where one recipient will be selected.

If you are not selected for the ESSAE, this application will automatically serve as your application for the Fort Meade Spouses' Club Scholarship. Final results of the ESSAE shall be declared at the Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony in May where all scholarship winners shall be recognized.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ❖ The applicant must be a dependent child (unmarried) of any military member from any branch, active duty, retired, deceased military personnel, Reservist or National Guard, not to exceed 23 years of age.
- ❖ Military members must live in the Fort Meade Area. Applicants must verify military dependency status.
- ❖ Graduating high school senior spring 2026.
- ❖ Minimum 3.0 GPA
- ❖ Must be enrolling as a full time post-secondary school student.
 - To qualify as a full-time student, a minimum of 12 credits each semester for the academic year of the scholarship is required.
- ❖ Submit a completed application on time as per details below.
- ❖ **Show continued volunteer experience with one or more organizations.**

Financial Restrictions:

Additional financial restrictions and obligations:

1. Scholarships will be payable directly to the school for tuition only. Scholarships will be paid when the FMSC receives a detailed statement of all financial activity on the student's account, to include hours enrolled, tuition and general institution fees, and any scholarships or grants.
2. Winners have until **August 1, 2027** to submit a bill from their school. Unclaimed funds will be retained by the FMSC.
3. Failure to submit documentation on time will result in forfeiture of scholarship.
4. Tuition will be paid directly to the school after the Scholarship Director has verified that all financial restrictions and regulations have been met.

5. If a scholarship winner receives 80% tuition money from other scholarships, tuition assistance, GI Bill, Post 9-11 GI Bill transfer, or any other sources that do not require repayment, the scholarship winner will become ineligible for the scholarship.
6. Scholarships may be used at any accredited college, university, business or vocational school for one year not to exceed the amount awarded.

Required Documents to be Submitted with Application:

- Please select one (1) question and answer with a minimum 1 ½ page response.
 - o Why do you believe volunteering and community service are essential, particularly in military families? How have you personally contributed to this tradition?
 - o How has your volunteer work prepared you for your educational and career goals? What skills or values did you develop through this experience?
- Proof of Military Status
 - o DD214, DEERS enrollment, copy of orders, letter from command or other documentation.
 - o
- Two proofs of **sponsor** residency in the Fort Meade area:
 - o One copy of a rental, mortgage, lease agreement, housing contract or property tax.
 - o One copy of the top portion of a cable, landline, or home utility bill, bank statement, or credit card bill (with account numbers blacked out.) Cell phone bills are not acceptable as proof of residency.
- Two recent letters** of recommendation from a non-family member. The first letter is required to be from a supervisor where you have volunteered on an ongoing basis. The letter must include your responsibilities and how long you have been a volunteer with them, for verification purposes. The second letter may be from a community organization leader, educator, employer, fellow volunteer or volunteer supervisor describing your character and/or participation with the organization from which they know you.
 - Please be sure that the letters include the contact information of your references. Letters must be received by the deadline for scholarship applications. (Note: Letters of recommendation cannot be accepted from members of the FMSC Scholarship Committee members or other applicants for this scholarship.)
- SUBMIT OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS** for your junior year and first semester of your senior year. Home school students: transcript submitted by the parent/guardian of the homeschooler

Completed applications and all supporting documentation should be sent together to:

Postmarked:

Fort Meade Spouses' Club
ATTN: Scholarship Director
P.O. Box 105
Fort Meade, MD 20755

Emailed:

Emailed to Scholarships@fortmeadespousesclub.org

For additional information or questions please contact the Scholarship Director at
Scholarships@fortmeadespousesclub.org

Completed Application Packets must be postmarked or emailed by March 20, 2026.
Incomplete application packets or applications received after this date will NOT be considered.

Fort Meade Spouses' Club
2026-2027 Evelyn Silva Scholarship Award of Excellence Application

Please print clearly or type.		
Last Name:	First Name:	
Phone:	Email:	
Two contact telephone numbers including area code for your Parent/Guardian with whom you reside:		
Your Address: Street: _____		
City:	State:	ZIP:
Name of Applicant's Military Sponsor:		
Sponsor's Unit and Unit Address (or former unit, if retired):		
Sponsor's Branch of Service and Most Recent Rank:		
Sponsor's Address (if different from applicant): Street: _____		
City:	State:	ZIP:
High School Counselor's name and contact information:		
Current School's Name and telephone number:		
Current School's Address: Street: _____ Phone: _____		
City:	State:	ZIP:
How many credits/semester hours do you plan to take in the following semesters of the upcoming academic year?		
School of Anticipated Enrollment:		
Anticipated Major:	Anticipated Minor:	
Anticipated Date of Graduation:		
Have you applied to your program? Yes _____ No _____ In Progress _____		
Have you been accepted into your program? Yes _____ No _____ In Progress _____		
Are you applying for any other scholarships or grants? Yes _____ No _____		
Award Name(s):		
Maximum Award Amount(s) (if known):		

A resume style document may be attached to answer the following questions

Please discuss your volunteer and community service experience over the past four years. Please include the approximate months/years, location, organization, and your role in providing the service.

All other extracurricular activities with dates and positions held in school or out of school (such as involvement with sports, music, clubs, etc)

Please share your work experience (if any). Include approximate years, location and description of duties.

List all honors or awards you have received in the past 4 years.

By submitting and signing this form I attest:

- I have read and fully understand the Fort Meade Spouses' Club rules, guidelines and criteria for their annual scholarships.
- I understand it is my responsibility to submit this package and all supporting documentation, and it must be **postmarked or emailed by March 20, 2026**.
- I understand that failure to have all documents submitted on time (including transcripts and references) will result in my application being deemed ineligible for scholarship consideration.
- The above information is accurate, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Sponsor's Signature

Date

*****INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE ALL DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETE AND MAILED ON TIME*****

*****NO EXCEPTIONS*****

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION, RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR PERSONAL RECORDS.