2023 AFCEA Central Maryland Jeremy A. Pinkerton Cyber Scholarship Award

PURPOSE: AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter Educational Foundation seeks to recognize award high school seniors who are pursuing a college degree or college students in their freshman, sophomore or junior year. Students must show an aptitude for cyber security and who have dealt with academic adversity in their life. They must show how they are overcoming academic adversity to accomplish their career goal.

AWARD: Each Jeremy A. Pinkerton Cyber Scholarship is a one-year, $2,500 award to be applied towards the student’s academic education. The award is named in honor of a University of Maryland student who persevered despite medical challenges, and found success through encouraging team learning in computer science at the University of Maryland. Students may apply for this for multiple years.

Three types of students are eligible to apply:
1. High school seniors who are graduating in the spring 2023 and will attend any four-year university or college in Maryland.
2. Students currently attending a community college for the first two years as long as they will continue on to attend any four-year university or college in Maryland.
3. Students who are current freshman-, sophomore- or junior- level college students who attend a four-year university or college in Maryland.

CRITERIA: Applicants must:
- Be a well-rounded full-time student graduating from high school to pursue a four-year degree or be in their freshman, sophomore, or junior year at any university or college in Maryland who has shown an aptitude for cyber security and has dealt with academic adversity.
- Be a current student or accepted as a transfer student for the following fall semester at any university or college in Maryland.
- Be working towards a Bachelor’s degree with a declared major in Computer Science with a focus on Cyber Security or other cyber related areas of study supportive of national defense.
- Stay in a field of study supportive of national defense through graduation.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.7 on a 4.0 scale, with demonstrated improvement over time.
- Be a U.S. citizen.

CEREMONIES: Scholarship recipients will be notified in late Feb/early March, 2023. The AFCEA Central Maryland Chapter will invite selected recipients and their parents to an awards dinner honoring them in early May, 2023, to accept their scholarship.

All interested students must submit their completed applications online by January 16, 2023.
APPLICATION: Student scholarship submissions must include all of the following items. (Applicants will receive email from the Scholarship Committee chair as materials are received. If applicant does not get an email, reach out to the email address above.)

1. A completed application form submitted online at https://afcea.eformsolutions.com which includes general information about the applicant. (sample application details the info to be submitted)

2. Essay Section: Please answer each of the six short essays to help the evaluators understand more about who you are. Please note that some questions have multiple parts. (You must respond to all parts of each question.)
   A. Three of the most important traits to having a successful STEM career are creativity, determination, and leadership to solve real world problems. Explain how you have demonstrated these traits in your academic and/or extra-curricular activities. (up to 300 words)
   B. What is your ideal job after graduation and why? (up to 300 words)
   C. Tell us about an event or a person in your chosen career field that you admire and why (up to 300 words)
   D. Why are you pursuing a STEM education? (up to 300 words)
   E. Discuss your personal experiences with diversity, equity, and inclusion (up to 300 words)
   F. Please explain how academic adversity has affected your life and how you have overcome or are addressing academic adversity to be prepared for a future career path in cyber. (up to 300 words)

3. A resume from the applicant detailing the applicant’s accomplishments, work experience, leadership, and community involvement. The applicant should also detail hobbies or athletic activities that he/she especially enjoys and how he/she ties that to their accomplishments. (Submit with on-line application)

4. An official, certified high school transcript of completed courses and grades. (Submit with on-line application)

5. Test scores: SAT or ACT scores from the testing center. (AFCEA Central Maryland is not listed as a site that scores can be sent to. Scan the report you receive and submit it with the on-line application). Be sure that the report has your full name on it.

6. Two letters of recommendation: one letter must be from an academic person (i.e., a school official – teacher, principal) and the second letter must be from a non-academic person (i.e., a person outside of school – clergy, a person you work/intern for, a volunteer leader, a coach). Letters from school counselors are not acceptable. Letters should be specific to this scholarship and not be letters that are for entry to a university or college. Provide the names of the two people that will be your recommenders and their email addresses. The online application (https://afcea.eformsolutions.com) will send them an email asking them to upload a letter. You cannot submit your application until both letters of recommendation have been uploaded.

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