

# Walter Wilcox Volunteer Firefighters Scholarship Program

## **Background:**

Walter Wilcox was a charter member of the Big 8 Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area located in an eight county area of south east Texas. The name has changed to Post Oak RC&D Area and now comprises ten counties. Walter served as chairman of the Big 8 RC&D Area, off and on, for around twelve years. He also served as president of Texas RC&D Councils in the mid 1980s'. Walter served as commissioner of Brazos County for almost 20 years. He convinced the county judge and commissioners that the volunteer fire departments needed to form fire districts and that commissioners needed to provide annual funds to support their local VFDs' annually. He also was responsible for getting his local RC&D to adopt and provide grant funds for the state Dry Fire Hydrant Program.

## **Eligibility:**

Candidates must be a high school graduate actively involved as a volunteer firefighter for a minimum of 1 year (365) consultative days and attend a majority of local training sessions, to be determined by fire chief. Scholarship will be awarded based on financial need, student's performance and attendance at local training for a twelve month period, and future desire to stay actively involved in local VFD. Funds must be used to further advance firefighter's education. Schools such as TAMU Fireman's Training School or other certified schools that their VFD and state fire marshals office deems necessary for the training and safety of the volunteer firefighter. Funds can be used for tuition, overnight stay and travel.

## **Basic Student Application Qualifications & Requirements:**

- Candidate must reside in local VFD
- Must be high school graduate or receive GED and minimum of 18 years of age
- Have local fire chief complete form ( ) verifying training and attendance
- Provide essay on "A Commitment to Community" (250 to 500 words)
- Must have three character references
- All application forms must be completed in full. Incomplete applications will be void
- Application forms must be postmarked before deadline date. (proof of mailing may be required)

## **Judging Criteria:**

The scholarship committee will consist of RC&D board members throughout Texas. The committee is not limited to an exact set of criteria; however the following general guidelines will be used:

- Involvement in volunteer/community activities = 15%
- "Commitment to Community" essay = 25%
- Financial need = 25%
- Character references = 10%
- Training and academic achievement = 20%
- Overall packet = 5%

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500 per applicant. Number of scholarships will depend on amount of revenue collected by the Post Oak RC&D Area within the Scholarship FY.

Deadline for submitting materials is **May15, 2009**.

Submit packet to **Post Oak RC&D, 1716 Briarcrest Dr. Ste. 510, Bryan, TX 77802**