

**Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum**  
**Historic Fire Station 3**  
**1022 West Las Olas Boulevard**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312**

[www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org](http://www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org)

January 26, 2026

Dear Scholars,

It is my pleasure to present the annual Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum-Lorraine Thomas Scholarship program. The Scholarship Fund was established by the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum and was generously supported by the late Lorraine Thomas, wife of Wendy's founder, the late Dave Thomas. The Fire Museum is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit institution. Its mission is to preserve the history of Fort Lauderdale's Fire Department and to educate our children. A Selection Committee has been formed that is comprised of appointees from the Fort Lauderdale Fire & Safety Museum, the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department, the Fort Lauderdale Firefighter's Benevolent Association and IAFF Local 765. The Selection Committee will select Merit Scholars from among applicants that are:

- Dependent children or stepchildren of active, retired or fallen sworn Fort Lauderdale firefighters who have completed probation, and who are:
- High school seniors or college freshmen who will be enrolled as full-time students in an accredited college, university or technical institute in the upcoming academic year.

This year the scholarship fund will award \$2,500, \$1,500 and two \$500 scholarships based on merit - the single most important factor being academic achievement. The Selection Committee also strongly considers other relevant criteria, including personal character and extracurricular accomplishments. More information, guidelines and application can be obtained at the Fire Museum and IAFF Union Local 765 websites.

[www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org](http://www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org)

[www.iafflocal765.com](http://www.iafflocal765.com)

Best wishes to all applicants, as we remember and honor the late Mrs. Lorraine Thomas. Sincerely,  
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE & SAFETY MUSEUM

Shawn Levine  
Shawn Levine  
President



FIRE & SAFETY MUSEUM

*Preserving Our Heritage and Teaching Our Youth*

# **LORRAINE THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS**

1. **Application:** All applicants are required to complete the attached Application Forms. Type or print your information clearly.
2. **Page 1** includes some basic information about you and your eligibility as an applicant and includes a statement for you and a parent to sign, which attests to the accuracy of the information you have provided in your application and to your intention to enroll in a full-time accredited college program in the upcoming school year.
3. **Page 2** asks you to list all Scholarships, Grants, Honors and Awards you received.
4. **Page 3** asks you to indicate the various extracurricular activities / community service / or work experience in which you have been involved and the contact information for the individuals who have supervised your participation in these activities.
5. **Pages 4 & 5** ask you to write an essay and respond to a few questions about you and your personal opinions. This section of the application is your opportunity to elaborate on some of your accomplishments, but, more importantly, to describe to the Committee which factors you feel have been critical to your motivation and success. **(Note: Essay should be on a separate piece of paper, typed with your name appearing on the top).**
6. **Page 6** is a form which summarizes your standardized test score results.
7. **School Transcript:** Request an official transcript from your School Registrar and have the transcript emailed to [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov) .

Applicants who are already enrolled in college can provide their current college transcript, have it emailed to [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov).

8. **Two Letters of Recommendation:** You may use the same letters of recommendation prepared for your college applications. The people you ask to write letters of recommendation on your behalf should be 21 years or older and know you well. **At least one must be a teacher or counselor, but neither may be a relative.**

If you did not apply for college or letters of recommendation were not required, give everyone who has agreed to write a letter for you a copy of the **"Instructions Regarding Letters of Recommendation", which is page 4.**

Have those writing letters email the letter from their official business email to: [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov) , as letters must be received from the person writing the letter.

**Submitting Your Application:** The application form and all supporting documents (except Letters of Recommendation) must be scanned and emailed, with Scholarship in the Subject line, to Ms. Debra Flowers @ [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov)

**Submission Deadline:** The deadline for receipt of all documents relating to your application is **4:30 pm on May 8, 2026**. **Note:** Letters of recommendation are also due the same time on **May 8, 2026**, but must be received from the person writing the letter.

**IF YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT COMPLETE IT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.**

**Selection and Notification:** The Committee will select and notify Scholarship winners by May 22, 2026.

# **INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

To assist in the difficult task of choosing a winner, the Selection Committee requires two letters of recommendation from individuals 21 years or older who know the applicant well. One must be from a teacher or counselor, but neither from a relative. Your letter should at a minimum indicate:

1. How long you have known the applicant and in what capacity.
2. Ways the candidate has distinguished himself or herself among peers; and
3. Any weaknesses or opportunities for growth.

We are most interested in specific examples of commendable behavior (e.g., respect for others, honesty, integrity, personal accountability) demonstrated by the Applicant and observed personally by you. All communications with the Selection Committee will be kept confidential. The Selection Committee understands the time and effort associated with preparing a letter of recommendation and thanks you for your participation and assistance in our evaluation process.

**If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Debra Flowers, Scholarship Committee Chairperson at 954-828-3616 or by email at [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov)**

**Signed Letters of Recommendation must be dated during the current school year and emailed to [DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:DFlowers@fortlauderdale.gov) by person writing the letter by the **May 8, 2026 deadline.****

**THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION AND APPLICATIONS IS May 8, 2026. APPLICATIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL ALL DOCUMENTS OF APPLICATION, INCLUDING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. THE SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL NOT REVIEW INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.**

Signature:   
Shawn Levine (Jan 20, 2026 16:01:10 EST)

Email: [slevine@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:slevine@fortlauderdale.gov)







# Fire Museum Scholarship Instructions 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-01-20

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