



Police Foundation: Scholarship Awards Program by Thomas F. Murphy

On March 1st the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation announced that it has established an educational scholarship program to be awarded to qualified individuals in their pursuit of continuing education. The Foundation will award two individual scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year.

The scholarships are available to any resident of the City of Palm Beach Gardens, any employee of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department or their dependents. Current active members of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Explorer Post are also eligible.

Applicants for the scholarships must be seeking undergraduate, graduate or technical studies at an accredited post-secondary educational institution and be enrolled and accepted for either full-time or part-time studies. Scholarship funds must be used to fund tuition, fees and educational institution housing and will be paid directly to the institution.

While this is not strictly a needs-based scholarship program, it will be considered as part of the review process. Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average and will be judged on Academic Achievement, Community/Volunteer Achievement and the submission of an essay on the topic of "How a Higher Education Degree will affect my life." The scholarships are designed to support both entering first-year students and returning students.

A scholarship review committee made up of three independent Police Foundation Board Members and two University Professors/Registrars will be responsible for selecting the scholarship recipients.

"One of the greatest contributions we can make in our community is an investment in our people," said Tom Murphy, President of the Foundation. "We believe that education enriches the lives, skills and abilities of the recipients and we are delighted to be able to provide this educational opportunity."

All completed applications must be returned to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation no later than May 31st, 2013. Scholarship decisions will be announced on or about June 30th, 2013.

To learn more about the scholarship program, visit the Police Foundation website at www.pbgpf.org

Thomas F. Murphy has been president of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, Inc. since its inception in 2007. Before helping to form the foundation he was a marketing executive with the IBM Corporation and earlier a member of the Nassau County (NY) Police Department.