Jeffrey A. Trail Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Guidelines

The Jeffrey A. Trail Memorial Scholarship is administered at the DeKalb County Community Foundation and can be used to pay down the Advance for Clothing and Equipment (ACE) loan and/or offset any additional debt incurred as a student at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The recipient will be selected before their first year in the academy and will receive a total of $5,000 over four years of active enrollment in the Naval Academy according to the following schedule:

- Year one - $1,000
- Year two - $1,000
- Year three - $1,000
- Year four - $2,000

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Applicants must be formally admitted, and committed to attending, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland for their undergraduate education and training.

Applicants will be considered in the following priority order:
1. A DeKalb County, IL resident
2. A state of Illinois resident in closest proximity to DeKalb County, IL

To apply:

- Apply online at https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/QxRAKZ
- Applications must be complete and submitted by 11:59 p.m. July 31.
- Contact Becky Zantout, Grants and Scholarships Manager, with questions at b.zantout@dekalbccf.org or 815-748-5383.

Scholarship Background

Jeffrey A. Trail was the son of Stanley M. and the late B. Ann Trail. He was born in DeKalb, IL, on February 25, 1969. Jeff spent his formative years in DeKalb and graduated from DeKalb High School in 1987. During Jeff’s senior year at DeKalb High School, he applied for admission to the United States Naval Academy. His application was initially denied because of a suspected asthmatic condition. He appealed the decision and continued knocking on the door until they let him in. Jeff entered the Academy on July 1, 1987, having been formally appointed by Senator Paul Simon. In his last year, he was the Fourth Battalion Adjutant. Jeff greatly valued his years at the Academy, and in June 1991, he graduated and was commissioned to Ensign in the United States Navy. Jeff continued his professional military career until June 1995, when he was department head and promoted to Lieutenant at the Assault Craft Unit One at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, CA.