

## Matthew W. Heiden 2026 Public Safety Scholarship



The Village of Westmont is an Illinois Municipal Corporation. Together with the Westmont Chamber of Commerce Educational Foundation (WCCEF), a shared mission to provide recognition and scholarships to area students and residents with interest in careers in Public Safety and Public Works has been created. The *Matthew W. Heiden Public Safety Scholarship* is maintained in honor of Matthew Heiden, who lost his life in a workplace accident serving the community in the Westmont Public Works Department.

The WCCEF administers the scholarship for the Village of Westmont and uses a formal criteria and selection process to award this scholarship. The criteria for this scholarship will include:

- Local Students, (in order of preference)
  - Local high school seniors
  - Local residents
  - Local public employees (Westmont, Park District, School District, Township, County, etc.) pursuing an education or training in public safety, public works, or construction safety careers.
- Scholarship awards up to \$2000 per each satisfied applicant, and up to \$6000 annually. (Three awards possible).
- Student will be attending an accredited curriculum at university, college, or trade school within six months of graduation.
- Enrollment fees (100%) in any Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) Certification or Credential, funds remaining.
- Registration costs (100%) for any American Public Works Association (APWA), American Water Works Association, or OSHA conferences or training. opportunities in Illinois can be considered, funds remaining
- Financial need is not a criterion.

The WCCEF will select finalists to interview before making final award decisions. Scholarship applications and supporting documents must be returned by the published deadline each year.

### Matthew W. Heiden 2026 Public Safety Scholarship Application

***Scholarship applications and supporting documents must be submitted by March 6, 2026 either online at [westmontchamber.com](http://westmontchamber.com) or by paper copy to:***

Westmont Chamber of Commerce Educational Foundation  
One South Cass Avenue, Suite 101, Westmont, IL 60559

Phone: 630-960-5553 Email: [wccef@westmontchamber.com](mailto:wccef@westmontchamber.com)

All of the following must be included with the application form:

- Completed Application
- Two letters of recommendation (one from an educator and the other from the community)
- Complete Transcript of your four years showing your cumulative grade point average.
- 300–500 word essay

**Please type or print clearly all of the information required below:**

Full Name:

Address:

Telephone number you can be reached at:

Graduation date:

Email:

Cumulative Grade Point Average

On a scale of:

List clubs, activities or services of which you were a member in school and/or the community with dates:

List any recognition and/or achievement awards you have received:

List place(s) of employment, type of work and dates (if applicable):

University, College or Trade School you plan to attend, location and entrance date:

Likely major or course of study:

**Essay**

On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay of 300 to 500 words, that speaks to the following:

- Your interests and accomplishments
- Your future plans and life goals
- Your reasons for pursuing your chosen career path
- How these goals may benefit your community in the future
- Why you would like to be selected for the Matthew W. Heiden Scholarship

Provide two letters of recommendation, one from an educator and the other from the community (place of employment, volunteer group, or religious organization).

I hereby certify that all the information provided in this application is accurate and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date