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# **AWARDS BULLETIN**

# HOSPITAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES AWARDS BULLETIN For 2016

Release date: November 10, 2015

## **DAV 2016 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program**

DAV is seeking nominations for the 2016 Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program. As you may know, this program is designed to encourage youth volunteers to become active in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) and/or DAV's Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP).

The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program honors former National Service Officer and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown. It is given in memory of a DAV leader dedicated to veterans, through the recognition of those who carry on his legacy of service. This scholarship is awarded to youth volunteers who are committed to serving veterans. Each year, one outstanding applicant receives the top scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 to help fund their higher education. In addition, the top winner and parent/guardian receive round-trip airfare (lowest non-refundable fare), hotel accommodations, and per diem for three days to attend the DAV National Convention. The winner will be presented the award and be recognized for their dedication and commitment to veterans.

Additional scholarships are awarded annually in the following amounts:

- Second prize of \$15,000
- Third prize of \$10,000
- Fourth prize of \$7,500 (two awarded annually)
- Fifth prize of \$5,000 (three awarded annually)

The 2015 top honor was awarded to an applicant who had volunteered 786 hours over the span of four years at her local VA medical center, with 374 of those hours being accredited to DAV.

### Eligibility:

 Scholarships can be awarded to any volunteer who is age 21 or younger and has volunteered for a minimum of 100 hours through the VAVS Program, DAV Auxiliary or DAV's LVAP.

- Eligible hours must have occurred in the previous calendar year. The youth must credit their volunteer hours to DAV to be considered for the scholarship.
- The scholarships can be used for any accredited institution of higher learning, to include universities, colleges, community colleges, or vocational schools, etc.
- Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25 or within six years of receiving the scholarship, whichever is later.
- Nominations for this award may be submitted by the Voluntary Services Program
  Manager at a VA medical center, DAV Department Commander or the student may
  complete a self-nomination.
- All nomination packets should include a nomination form, essay and any supporting documentation which you would like to have considered by the Selection Committee.

As you know, it is vital that we continue to engage and involve youth in the benefits of volunteering, so we ask for your continued support of this scholarship program. To this end, we ask that all DAV Department Commanders and Voluntary Service Program Managers select outstanding youth volunteers from your facility for this award by completing the nomination form. Department Commanders with more than one VA facility in their state may submit youth volunteers from each facility. Completed nomination forms should be submitted no later than Friday, February 12, 2016.

For the 2016 award year, nominations for the Jesse Brown Youth Memorial Scholarship will be completed online using the DAV360 system (<a href="www.dav360.org">www.dav360.org</a>). You will need to contact the Voluntary Services Department, at (859) 441-7300 ext. 3315, to obtain your login information. Please follow the instructions attached. If you have any questions, or to request a paper nomination form, please contact the Voluntary Services Department at the number above.

Nominations may also be received from DAV Chapters, DAV Auxiliary Units and all DAV and DAVA Representatives and Deputy Representatives. DAV Departments, Chapters or Auxiliary Units with youth meeting eligibility requirements may submit nomination forms for youth volunteering through LVAP.

Youth volunteers may also nominate themselves for this award. The self-nomination form can be completed online at the following link:

#### www.mvdav.org/ibs app

We encourage you to solicit recommendations and information from the VAMC Director, Program Managers and other staff members who are directly involved with the VAVS Program in your facilities. With regard to LVAP, please solicit recommendations and information from the appropriate Department, Chapter or Auxiliary Unit officials.

Thank you for your participation. Please remember, your nomination must be received at DAV National Headquarters by <u>February 12, 2016</u>.

Sincerely,

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J. MARC BURGESS National Adjutant

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**Enclosures**