



MEMORANDUM

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TO: All PVA Chapters (via email and fax)

FROM: Patricia Rollins, Administrative Officer
Membership & Volunteer Program

SUBJ: Scholarship Opportunity – James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Fund

DATE: November 26, 2008

Attached is information regarding the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Fund which is awarded annually by the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee. Last year the Committee awarded two scholarships; one in the amount of \$20,000 and one for \$10,000! Those are pretty hefty awards and given the present tuition rates and the present economy I am confident it would help many of our members' families!

Encourage students to look at this information. The next award deadline is September 2009. One of the qualifications is that they must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year leading up to that date. If they start now and are at least in the 10th grade they could qualify to apply (please be sure to read the additional criteria). I have also included a sheet on the VAVS Student Volunteer Program which outlines some other benefits of becoming a volunteer through the local VA.

Volunteering through the VAVS program is a great opportunity for everyone! I highly encourage you to share this information by making copies and running it in your newsletters. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 800-424-8200 ext. 619 or TrishR@pva.org.

Student Volunteer Program

Student volunteers are an important part of the VA medical centers' treatment team. They will receive valuable experience and training which will benefit them in applying for college and jobs. The James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award provides scholarship opportunities to students who volunteer at VA medical centers (your local VA health care Voluntary Service staff has current nomination criteria). Student volunteers are liaisons with their communities and provide a valuable element of caring for veterans. The VA Voluntary Service program offers students excellent opportunities for:

- exploring health care career options;
- gaining experience in a health care environment;
- learning new skills; making new friends;
- qualifying to be nominated for James H. Parke Memorial college scholarships

There are many opportunities to explore in the Student Volunteer Program. Here are just a few of the services and specialties available to student volunteers:

Audiology & Speech Pathology	Outpatient/Ambulatory Care Activities
Extended Care	Occupational Therapy
Information Technology	Patient Escort
Laboratory Medicine	Pharmacy
Medical Administration	Physical Therapy
Medical Illustration	Research
Nursing	Social Work
Nutrition and Food Service	

A wide variety of assignments are available. Volunteers are selected according to the needs of the medical center, assignment preference and skills. Training is provided by Voluntary Service at each medical facility and the supervisor of the department to which volunteers are assigned. Orientation will be conducted to acquaint you with services available at the medical center where you serve.

There are also scholarship opportunities through VAVS and veterans service organizations. One scholarship is the James H. Parks Memorial Youth Scholarship. For more information visit: <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp>).

How do I become a VA student volunteer? You have two convenient ways:

1) Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs facility nearest you. Ask for Voluntary Service. Tell their staff of your interest in becoming a VAVS Volunteer. The staff will take care of everything else including your interview, orientation, and assignment!

2) Go to <http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/> fill out and submit the form. Someone from the local VAVS office will contact you with further information.

James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship

General Information

James H. Parke was the first Director of Voluntary Service and the founding father of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC).

The James H. Parke Memorial Fund, comprised of VAVS NAC member organizations, was established in 1976 to serve as the non-profit source of funds for a VAVS Youth Scholarship. Organizations, volunteers, VA staff and others continue to contribute to the Fund. The board of directors of the Fund annually establishes (in the early spring) the amount of the primary award and any secondary scholarships. The Fund communicates such and provides a nomination form to the Director, Voluntary Service Office (10C2) for distribution to Voluntary Service field staff.

The scholarships may be used for tuitions and fees, books and supplies and/or room and board or other educational needs purchased through the school of the students' choice. Scholarship winners must use their awards by their 24th birthday. All winners receive detailed guidance concerning scholarship utilization from the Treasurer of the Fund.

Nominations

Each medical center may nominate one VAVS student volunteer for receipt of the award. Recommendations may be made by any VA staff member who acts as a supervisor of the student volunteer or member of the local VAVS Committee. This recommendation should be discussed with the Chief, Voluntary Service, before submission to the Medical Center Director.

To be eligible, candidates must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS volunteer service during the calendar year prior to September 1; be a student in the 10th grade or above; and have not reached their 19th birthday.

The Medical Center Director nominates a candidate for the award by submission of the nomination form to the President of the Fund by November 1. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.

The nomination form should be completed to reflect the volunteer service and background of the candidate and include: age, years of volunteering, number of volunteer hours, areas of service, and affiliated/supporting organizations, if any. Criteria on which candidates are evaluated for consideration of awards include:

- Scholastic Activity
- Dependability
- Fulfillment and acceptance of responsibility
- Personality and pleasantness to patients and staff
- Leadership capability
- Inspiration to patients through service performed
- Appearance

The National Winner receives a plaque and a letter of commitment. This presentation is usually made at the Annual Meeting of the VAVS National Advisory Committee.