



2026 Paramedic Scholarship Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the Paramedic Scholarship awarded by the Christopher Meadows Memorial EMS Education Fund. Scholarship(s) will be awarded to currently-enrolled student in good standing. The following information will give you the guidelines on the qualifications, requirements and application process.

Qualifications:

- Must be currently (as of 11/15/26) enrolled in, or accepted to, an accredited California paramedic education program
- Must have a minimum of 2 years active EMT field experience
- Must be 21 years of age at time of program completion
- Must be a California resident
- Must have prior or current affiliation with an EMS or allied agency in the State of California or U.S. armed services.

Application Requirements:

Qualified applicants need to submit via our online application:

- Background/Contact information
- Work Experience
- Community involvement experience
- Proof of current enrollment in, or acceptance to an accredited paramedic program
- One professional letter of recommendation. The letter should be specific to this application, be written on the individual's company letterhead, and signed by the recommender.
- Essay (not to exceed 500 words), answering the question "Why do you want to be a paramedic and why do you feel you should be awarded the Christopher Meadows Memorial Paramedic Scholarship?" and reflecting on the background about Christopher Meadows found at the end of this document.

All application materials are available at www.meadowsscholarship.org and applications must be received by online submittal no later than November 15, 2026.

Process:

All applications will be reviewed by our scholarship committee. Finalists will be selected for online interviews to be held on December 5, 2025 at a time to be determined. The scholarship(s) will be awarded in two installments: \$1,500 by December 31, 2025, and \$1,500 upon successful paramedic licensure.

For questions, please contact:

Tim Meadows, meadows.scholarship@gmail.com

4360 COURT DRIVE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062 (408) 205-9702

The Christopher Meadows Memorial EMS Education Fund is established as a division of CHARITYSMITH Nonprofit Foundation EIN 87-0636433. CHARITYSMITH Nonprofit Foundation is a 501(c)3 private nonprofit foundation and your donation is tax deductible in accordance with federal tax laws.

For more information, or to donate online visit: www.meadowsscholarship.org



About Christopher Meadows

2/17/85 – 5/24/09

While he had shown interest in riding along with the fire department and listening to a scanner in high school, Christopher Meadows began his pursuit of an emergency medical career in earnest while he was studying in the business school at Cal Poly. During his senior year, in parallel with his Cal Poly studies, he enrolled in the EMT program at Cuesta College. After successfully completing the EMT 1 certification, he hired on with San Luis Ambulance as a reserve EMT in December 2006. From then until graduation from Cal Poly in June 2007, Chris worked as many shifts as possible, immersing himself in the job with the desire to learn as fast as possible and absorb as much as possible. He loved being an EMT so much that he put his potential business career on hold so he could work full-time in emergency service for a year.

Well, the more he worked as an EMT, the more he realized that emergency care was right for him, and he was good at it. One year turned into two, and Chris agonized over which path to pursue – a business career that would be financially rewarding and leverage his college training, or one in emergency services, which he did well and loved, but would never make him rich. Chris also joined the Search and Rescue team and learned all he could about that effort. He was in the process of being appointed the medical lead when, as a search and rescue volunteer, he was tragically killed May 24, 2009 while responding to a medical call at Oceano Dunes SVRA. He was the first member in the history of the SLO Search and Rescue team to be killed in the line of duty. Found in his car after his death were two applications to paramedic schools ready to be mailed. He had chosen to go with what he loved.

Chris never got to continue his career in emergency care. He loved helping people, but only got to do it for a little over two years. Chris was incredibly bright and only did things one way – the right way. The successful recipient of this scholarship must be prepared to pick up where Chris left off, and not only pursue his dream, but deliver on the promise of making the world a better place through dispensing excellent emergency care.



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