

# **Officer Craig Birkholz Scholarship In Police Science or Criminal Justice**

The Birky Challenge Scholarship Team, Inc. awards an annual scholarship to undergraduates from the State of Wisconsin who are enrolled at Wisconsin-based institutions of higher education and are pursuing either **two-year or four-year degrees in Police Science or Criminal Justice** (including majors and minors). Furthermore, any military veterans pursuing said degree are also eligible.

Wearing Badge #67, Craig Birkholz was a City of Fond du Lac Police Officer who was killed in the line of duty on March 20, 2011. He was a military veteran, a good husband, and a dedicated police officer who set an example of dedication to his job, commitment to good physical conditioning, and using care and compassion to carry out his role as a police officer.

The Birky Challenge Scholarship Team created a scholarship fund at the Fond du Lac Area Foundation that is supported by the Birky 67 Challenge, an annual charity bicycle ride of 67 miles, in an effort to provide the financial help needed to enter into a career as a police officer. It is hoped that this scholarship may help educate and prepare future police officers who can be as effective and as impactful in their communities as Craig was.

## **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

Up to two \$3,000 scholarships may be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:

- Personal qualifications
- Academic excellence (3.0 GPA overall)
- Written statement of career goals in law enforcement
- Community involvement

## **APPLICANTS MUST**

- Be current undergraduate students from the state of Wisconsin or be military veterans enrolled in any college or technical school in the state of Wisconsin.
- Pursue careers in Law Enforcement.
- Have completed as of finishing the spring 2025 semester: 30 credit hours (if in a two-year degree program) or 60 credit hours (if in a four-year degree program) and proof of a 3.0 overall GPA.
- If notified as being a finalist, participate in an interview (which may be virtual via Zoom).
- **Email applications to [jackie@fdlareafoundation.com](mailto:jackie@fdlareafoundation.com)** or mail to Fond du Lac Area Foundation, c/o Birky Challenge Scholarship Team Committee, 1020 S. Main Street, Ste. E, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

## **2025 APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1.**

Scholarship recipients will be notified by mail or email. Upon receipt of proof of enrollment, the scholarship check will be sent to the recipient's college of choice and made payable to the student's account. The scholarship will be used for tuition for a degree in Criminal Justice or towards attendance in a Law Enforcement Recruit Academy.



## WORK EXPERIENCE

List present and past employment and volunteer work experience beginning with your most recent job.

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Name and Address of Company

Dates of Employment

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Job Title and Duties Performed

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Name and Address of Company

Dates of Employment

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Job Title and Duties Performed

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

This must be 300 words or less, typed on separate paper, and attached to this application. The following items are to be covered in this statement:

- Why you wish to pursue a career in Law Enforcement
- Your goals for the future
- What you have learned from community involvement or volunteer experience that will help you in a law enforcement career

## SEND

1. COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM
2. **CERTIFIED, UP TO DATE TRANSCRIPT**
3. WRITTEN PERSONAL STATEMENT

**TO: Fond du Lac Area Foundation  
Birkholz Scholarship Team Committee  
1020 S. Main Street, Suite E  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935**

**OR: [jackie@fdlareafoundation.com](mailto:jackie@fdlareafoundation.com)**

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