The James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award

James H. Parke was the first Director of Voluntary Service and the founding father of the of Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) National Advisory Committee (NAC). The James H. Parke Memorial Fund, comprised of CDCE NAC member organizations, was established in 1976 to serve as the non-profit source of funds for a CDCE 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, supplies and/or room and board or other educational needs purchased through the school of the students' choice. All scholarship winners must use their awards by their 24th birthday. All winners receive detailed guidance concerning scholarship utilization from the Treasurer of the Fund.

Each medical center may nominate one CDCE 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 a member of the local CDCE 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 CDCE 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.

Nomination

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 organization, 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 and Appearance.

The National Winner receives a plaque and a letter of commitment. This presentation is usually made at the Annual Meeting of the National CDCE Advisory Committee. All personal information contained in the nomination form for the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award, as well as any photograph, may be used by the Fund and VA for promotion and publicity purposes. None of the information is required by law and is, therefore, disclosed voluntarily. A consent form (VA Form 10-3203) is available in all medical centers and should be attached to the nomination package.

For additional information, contact your local VA Voluntary Service Office.