VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines

Deadline is March 28th to Halifax SWCD, PO Box 247, Halifax, VA 24558

Purpose: To promote the education of Virginia citizens in technical fields with natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

To give financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

Qualifications: ***Individual applicants must be Virginia residents and full-time students enrolled in or who have applied to a college freshman level curriculum.*** Applicants shall document a class ranking in the top 20% of his or her graduating class or a 3.0 or greater Grade Point Average or appropriate equivalent of individual scholastic achievement. The applicant's most recent official school transcript must accompany the application. A copy of a school transcript will not be accepted. Applicants shall demonstrate active interest in conservation.

Only one applicant per district may be submitted. Applications should be made from the county the student resides or attends school. Eligible applicants must reside or attend school within a local Soil and Water Conservation District.

It is the responsibility of the districts to screen applications for eligibility in accordance with the criteria stated herein. Applications not fulfilling minimum criteria shall not be considered.

Amount Awarded: Four $2,000 scholarships will be given to statewide winners. Two scholarships are awarded on behalf of the VASWCD Education Foundation and two scholarships are awarded on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. A check will be issued directly to the selected institution of higher education on behalf of the student. **Halifax SWCD will also be awarding three $2,000 scholarships, the top applicant from Halifax will be sent in to be considered for a state scholarship. To be considered for the state scholarship you must be a high school senior. Halifax will award high school seniors and/or current eligible college students.**

Deadlines:

Early 2025	Application and guidelines distributed to SWCD Offices
March 28, 2025	Date Application must be returned to Halifax SWCD Office
April 18, 2025	District's selected applicant with all supporting documentation must be received at the VASWCD Office
Late May, 2025	Scholarship award winners will be announced

Submitted applications will be reviewed and screened by the Scholarship/Awards Committee. All applications and information contained therein shall remain confidential. Nominations from the Committee will be submitted to the VASWCD Educational Foundation Board of Directors for final approval.

The mission of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation, Inc. is to provide educational opportunities to citizens of Virginia to become good stewards of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of all. Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, memorial gifts and other contributions have provided initial funding for the Foundation.

All programs and services of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Educational Foundation, Inc. are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability. All submitted paperwork is confidential and becomes the property of the VASWCDEF.

Return Application To: Mailing address: Halifax SWCD, P.O. Box 247, Halifax, VA 24557 or bring to 161 S Main Street, Halifax (next to the library).

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

College Scholarship Application Deadline: March 29, 2024.

A. Personal Information

1. Applicant's Name _____
   Last First Middle
2. Home Address _____
   _____
3. County of Residence _____
4. Local Soil & Water Conservation District _____
5. Home Telephone Number _____
6. Date of Birth _____ 7. Email: _____

B. Educational Background (20 pts)
Attach your most recent official transcript. Your official transcript must show the official school seal.

1. High School Attending or Attended: _____
2. Anticipated or Date of Graduation: _____
3. Number of students in your class: _____ Class Rank: _____
4. Scholastic Average (GPA): _____
5. College(s) Attending or Plan to Attend: Include College Name and Location
   (1)_____
   (2)_____
6. Major or Intended Field of Study: _____

C. Environmental Leadership & Activity Experience (15 pts) - *Attach additional information as needed.*
List any environmental leadership or activity experience - designating if high school or college experience - you may have including participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), etc.

_____
_____
_____
_____

D. Other Leadership & Activity Experience (5 pts) - *Attach additional information as needed.*
List all other organizations and important extracurricular activities - designating if high school or college experience - in which you have or currently are participating. Indicate any activities in which you hold or have held office and note which position. Include other activities such as athletics, music, drama, dance, public speaking, clubs, societies, public events/exhibits or awards, list honors or letters earned.

_____
_____
_____
_____

E. Volunteer & Paid Experience (10 pts) - *Attach additional information as needed.*
List any volunteer or paid experiences including your position, date of service, and brief description of duties.

1. _____

   _____

2. _____

   _____

F. Financial Information and Other Circumstances (5 pts) *While this is primarily a merit-based scholarship, the review committee may take consideration ~~of~~ need or other special circumstances. The more detail provided about your need and why you deserve this scholarship is helpful to the review committee. Attach more detail if necessary.*

1. Are you applying for or will you receive a scholarship or loan from other sources? **Please circle one.** YES NO
2. **If yes,** please list loan and/or scholarship sources and estimated amounts that you are applying for:

   _____

3. In addition to the above, financing for your education will primarily come from: _____
4. Do you have other circumstances (ex. first generation college student, multiple siblings in college, etc.) or a personal situation you would like to share? _____

G. References/Letters of Recommendation (10 pts)
Attach recommendation letters from at least 3 references - other than family members – who can provide additional information about your academic and community activities. Share with your references that the purpose of this scholarship is to promote through education the conservation of our natural resources by providing financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a curriculum related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies. List below details on those from whom you have requested recommendation letters.

1. Name of Reference: _____

   Position/Relation to Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

   Address: _____

2. Name of Reference: _____

   Position/Relation to Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

   Address: _____

3. Name of Reference: _____

   Position/Relation to Applicant: _____ Telephone: _____

   Address: _____

H. Essay (35 points)

Attach a typed essay of approximately 500-650 words describing yourself and your involvement/interest in the environment. Address what you feel is the most important environmental issue in your community and why. How can you assist and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources?

I. Signatures/Certification
In submitting this application, I hereby certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted. If declared a recipient of this scholarship, I will provide the VASWCD a statement that may be used for publicity purposes.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Reminder - Attachments to Include: Official Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, Essay & any additional information.

Return to Your Local Soil & Water Conservation District to Complete the Following: Sponsoring SWCD: ___Halifax___ SWCD Contact Phone Number: __(434)476-7923____**.** SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: __Melissa Waller_____.