



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines
Application Deadline to Headwaters SWCD: Friday, March 29, 2024

Send Completed Applications To: 70 Dick Huff Lane Verona, VA 24482
Or drop off at the USDA Office in Verona across from the Government Center

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.

Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District Scholarship Program

Qualifications: *Individual applicants must be full-time students enrolled in or who have applied to a college undergraduate 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 and should be pursuing a major in a course curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

Eligible applicants must reside or attend school within the boundaries of the Headwaters SWCD (Augusta County, the City of Staunton, and the City of Waynesboro). **Preference may be given to applicants who have not previously received a Headwaters SWCD scholarship. Applicants may only receive a Headwaters SWCD scholarship a maximum of two (2) times.**

Headwaters SWCD Education Committee will review and screen applicants for eligibility in accordance with the criteria states herein and will make the selections for the recipient(s) of this year's Headwaters SWCD scholarships. Applications not fulfilling minimum criteria will not be considered. The points indicated on the application will not be used in the selection of the Headwaters SWCD Scholarship but will act as a guide for the committee.

Amount Awarded: The Headwaters SWCD will award one \$1,000 scholarship to an eligible individual.

Deadlines:

March 29, 2024	Application must be returned to Headwaters Soil & Water Conservation District Office
April 19, 2024	District's selected applicant with all supporting documentation must be received at the VASWCD Office
Late May, 2024	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.

NOTES: The guidelines/criteria for the VASWCD Educational Foundation Inc. Scholarship Program **only** allow applicants who have applied to a college freshmen level curriculum to apply for the four (4) two thousand dollar (\$2,000) scholarships. These scholarships are only offered to graduating high school students/high school seniors/current college freshman.

The Headwaters SWCD Scholarship guidelines/criteria allow full-time students who have applied to a college undergraduate level curriculum to apply for the Headwaters SWCD Scholarship Program. This scholarship is offered to a graduating high school student as well as college freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Preference may be given to applicants who have not previously received a Headwaters SWCD scholarship. Applicants may only receive a Headwaters SWCD scholarship a maximum of two (2) times.

The same application form is used for both the Headwaters SWCD Scholarship Program and the VASWCD Education Foundation Inc. Scholarship Program. Applicants must only submit one copy of the application to the Headwaters SWCD for consideration for one or both scholarships. The points indicated on the application will be used in the selection of the VASWCD Scholarship. The points indicated on the application will not be used in the selection of the Headwaters SWCD Scholarship but will act as a guide for the Education Committee.

Direct Scholarship Questions To:

Rich Wood
70 Dick Huff Lane
Verona, VA 24482
540-248-0148 Ext: 8
rwood@co.augusta.va.us

***Return Application To: Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District for review by March 29, 2024
70 Dick Huff Lane Verona, VA 24482
Or drop off at the USDA Office in Verona by the Government Center***

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: Headwaters SWCD

SWCD Contact Phone Number: (540) 248-0148 Ext: 8

SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: Rich Wood (rwood@co.augusta.va.us)