



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (SVSWCD)
College Scholarship Application & Guidelines

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Educational Foundation Scholarship Program

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. 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.

Background: 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 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 VASWCD Educational Foundation.

Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District (SVSWCD) Scholarship Program

Qualifications: **Individual applicants must be full-time students enrolled in or who have applied to a college undergraduate curriculum.** Applicants must document a class ranking in the top 20% of their graduating class or a 3.0 or higher grade-point average or appropriate equivalent evidence of individual scholastic achievement. The most recent **official** school transcript must accompany the application. **A copy of a school transcript will not be accepted.** Applicants should demonstrate active interest in conservation and should be pursuing a major in a curriculum related to natural resource conservation and/or environmental studies.

Eligible applicants must reside or attend school within the boundaries of the SVSWCD (Rockingham County, Page County, and the City of Harrisonburg).

The District's Education and Awards Committee will evaluate applications for eligibility in accordance with the criteria stated herein and will select the recipients of this year's SVSWCD scholarships. (The Committee will also select one application to submit to the VASWCD Educational Foundation Board of Directors for consideration for the VASWCD scholarship.)

Applications not fulfilling minimum criteria will not be considered. The points indicated on the application will not be used in the selection of the SVSWCD scholarship but will act as a guide for the committee. (These points will, however, be used in the selection of the VASWCD Scholarship.) **Preference may be given to applicants who have not previously received an SVSWCD scholarship.**

All applications and information contained therein will remain confidential.

Amount awarded: The SVSWCD will award up to \$3,000 in scholarships to selected eligible applicants.

Deadlines:

April 3, 2024	Scholarship application due to SVSWCD
April 19, 2024	Selected application with supporting documentation due to VASWCD office
May 2024	Scholarship winners to be announced

The same application form is used for both the SVSWCD Scholarship Program and the VASWCD Educational Foundation, Inc., Scholarship Program. Only one copy of the application need be submitted for consideration for both scholarships.

For more information, contact Megan Trice:
1934 Deyerle Avenue, Suite B
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 534-3051
megan.trice@svswcd.org

Return applications to Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District for review by April 3, 2024 by 4:30PM. Applications should be mailed or delivered to the office. Electronic applications will not be accepted.