



PIEDMONT SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines— For Current College Students

Due to Piedmont SWCD no later than Thursday, March 12, 2026

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 college.* Applicants shall have 3.0 or greater Grade Point Average. Applicants shall demonstrate active interest in conservation. **The applicant's most recent official school transcript must accompany the application.** Transcripts can be emailed directly from the school registrar.

A one-year scholarship will be awarded to a student with a permanent residence in Amelia, Nottoway or Prince Edward County. Previous applicants will need to reapply each year.

Amount Awarded: One \$2,000 scholarship will be given to students with a permanent residence in Amelia, Nottoway or Prince Edward County. A check will be issued directly to the selected institution of higher education on behalf of the student. Awardees must provide Piedmont SWCD a proof of enrollment in the form of a schedule or other documentation that states the school's name, date, student's name and identification number.

Deadlines:

March 12, 2026	Application must be submitted to Piedmont SWCD
End of March	The scholarship winner will be announced using the email address provided and promoted on the PSWCD Facebook and Instagram pages.

Return Application To: Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District
Attn: Kelly Atkinson
100B Dominion Drive
Farmville, VA 23901
434-392-7071 x4
katkinson@piedmontswcd.org

College Scholarship Application Deadline: Thursday, March 12

Return to: Piedmont SWCD, 100B Dominion Drive, Farmville VA 23901 Attn: Kelly Atkinson

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 your name, student number, year and school name.

1. High School Attended: _____
2. Date of HS Graduation: _____
3. Scholastic Average-college (GPA):

4. College Attending: Include College Name and Location

5. Major: _____
6. Minor (if you have one): _____
7. Anticipated graduation date: _____

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 include participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), college clubs, volunteer experience 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) *(reference letters should be current)*

Attach recommendation letters from at least 3 current 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. (note: you need to submit new reference letters with each years application).

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 responding to the following:

The famous quote by Mahatma Gandhi said, “be the change you wish to see in the world.” What is one environmental / conservation issue that you are passionate about and believe needs a change? Why is this issue important to you? What actions have you taken to work toward improving this issue or making a change? Has your effort influenced others, if so, how? If it has not, how can you influence others to “be the change you wish to see in the world?”

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 PSWCD a statement that may be used for publicity purposes.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Reminder - Attachments to Include: Official Transcript (will accept this emailed from college), Current Letters of Recommendation, Essay & any additional information

Requirement: If you have received this scholarship in the past, you must provide new reference letters. Failure to provide these will result in disqualification of your application.

Return to Your Local Soil & Water Conservation District to Complete the Following:

Sponsoring SWCD: Piedmont Contact Phone Number: 434-392-7071
SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: Kelly Atkinson