



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines—
For High School Seniors

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 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.** Transcripts should be printed by the school and in a sealed envelope. Applicants shall demonstrate active interest in conservation.

One-year scholarships will be awarded to students with a permanent residence in Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward County. Previous applicants will need to reapply each year.

Amount Awarded: Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to students with a permanent residence in Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties. A check will be issued directly to the selected institution of higher education on behalf of the student. *Awardees must provide Piedmont SWCD a copy of college enrollment letter or other documentation that has the school's name and address, date, and student's name and identification number (need this to ensure funds go into the correct account).*

Deadlines:

March 12, 2026	Application must be submitted to Piedmont SWCD
End of March 2026	Scholarship winners at District level will be announced with a mailed letter, and email to the address provided. Winners will be promoted on PSWCD Facebook and Instagram pages.
April 2026	One application will be forwarded to VASWCD for review and screening for the VASWCD Educational Foundation Scholarship which will award four \$2,000 scholarships statewide (winners will be announced to the email address provided and on the VASWCD Facebook page).
Early May 2026	Scholarship award winners at state level will be announced.

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

College Scholarship Application Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2026

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 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 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 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:

Sponsoring SWCD: Piedmont SWCD

Contact: katkinson@piedmontswcd.org

SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: Kelly Atkinson 434-392-7071