

## 2012 VASWCD Educational Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Awards Program Guidelines

### **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.

### **CRITERIA:**

Two Educational Foundation, Inc. scholarships will be awarded annually on behalf of the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. One will be awarded annually on behalf of the VASWCD and one will be awarded annually on behalf of the VASWCD Auxiliary to an eligible individual nominated by Virginia's SWCDs.

*Individual applicants must be 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 high 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 and attends school. Eligible applicants must reside 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 \$1,000 scholarships will be given to statewide winners. A check will be issued to the selected school in the student's name.

### **DEADLINES:**

March 15, 2012	Suggested Date Application must be returned to SWCD Offices
March 30, 2012	District's selected applicant with all supporting documentation must be received at the VASWCD Office
May 7, 2012	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, Inc. 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 Completed Application and supporting documentation to: Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District; Attn: Suzanne Brown; 30 Catocin Circle, SE, Suite H; Leesburg, VA 20175. If you have questions, please call Suzanne Brown, Education Outreach Specialist at (571)-918-4530, ext. 105.**



**C. LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (7.5pts)**

List organizations in which you hold or have held membership such as Boy or Girl Scouts, Church, 4-H, or FFA: and give offices, position or rank held in each. (Attach additional information as needed.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. ACTIVITIES INFORMATION (7.5pts)**

List important extra curricular activities in which you have or are participating in such as; athletics, music, drama, dance, public speaking, clubs, societies, public events or exhibits; and list honors or letters earned: Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp; list year(s) attended. (Attach additional information as needed.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or a family member belong to the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)? \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of family member: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE AND / OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE (15pts)**

List employment and/or volunteer experience including name of employer, dates of employment, position held and brief description of duties. (Attach additional information as needed.)

1. Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment \_\_\_\_\_  
Position Held \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Description of Job Duties \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Employment \_\_\_\_\_  
Position Held \_\_\_\_\_  
Brief Description of Job Duties \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**F. FINANCIAL INFORMATION** (Attach additional information if needed) (5pts)

1. Are you applying for or will you receive a scholarship or loan from other sources? Yes No  
(please circle one)

2. If yes, give loan or scholarship sources and amount

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In addition to the above, financing for your education will come primarily from

\_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Attach a copy of your Financial Aid Form (FAFSA), or provide any other appropriate information regarding financial need.

**G. REFERENCES/RECOMMENDATION LETTERS** (Attach recommendation letters) (10pts)

List at least three references other than family members who can provide additional information about your scholastic and community activities. **Please attach recommendation letters from those persons you have listed.**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

**H. ESSAYS**

I. Attach a typed essay (400-500 word estimate) 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? (20pts)

II. In approximately 100-150 words address the purpose for which this scholarship would be used and why you deserve this scholarship. Be specific. (15pts)

**J. SIGNATURES**

I hereby state that the information submitted herewith is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the foregoing application in full and hereby state that the information contained therein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Parent or Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsoring Soil and Water Conservation District:**

**Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Attachments to Include: Official Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, and Essays**