

The Appalachian Habitat Association Scholarship Program

Applicant / Student Instruction Sheet - 2024

Purpose:

The Appalachian Habitat Association (AHA) is offering four scholarships that will be awarded this spring to students who are currently or are planning to pursue an education that will lead to a two-year or higher degree in a course of study associated with Forestry, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Biology, Habitat Management, Conservation Resources, Conservation Criminal Justice or a similar field associated with improving wildlife habitat and/or protecting wildlife.

The non-profit AHA will accept applications from 2024 graduating high school seniors and post-secondary students currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, Va. Tech or another institution with an accredited program as identified above.

Scholarships in the amounts of \$6,000, \$5,000 and \$4,000 (2) will be awarded to the top four applicants, respectively.

Eligibility:

+ Students from the Counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Botetourt, Bath, Craig, Highland and Rockbridge, and the Cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro are eligible for the scholarships.

+ Students must support the preservation of the hunting tradition.

+ Students must demonstrate ability as a leader among his or her peers.

+ Students must submit an essay exhibiting dedication to wildlife conservation (see application).

+ Three letters of recommendation must be attached to the application (i.e. teacher, counselor, community leader)

+ Applicants must submit applications to the Scholarship Committee by May 31, 2024. Employees and Board Members of the AHA and their immediate family members are not eligible to participate in the program.

Selection Process:

The AHA Scholarship Committee will review and score applications by mid-June and announce recipients by email as soon as practical after reaching a consensus.

AHA Scholarship Committee decisions are final.

Scholarship Levels:

One Scholarship winner will receive up to \$6,000.00.

One Scholarship winner will receive up to \$5,000.00.

Two Scholarship winners will receive up to \$4,000.00.

Disbursement of Funds:

Students may use their scholarship at any accredited institution of higher education (Community College, Technical College, College or University). The AHA will work with the student and the college financial aid officers in determining the payee when the check is issued. This will ensure the greater benefit to the recipient and avoid violation of eligibility requirements.

Complete Applications may be submitted by

Email to: info@appalachianhabitat.org

USPS Mail to: AHA Scholarship, % Ed McCoy,
489 Back Creek Ln., Buchanan, Va. 24066 (postmarked by May 31, 2024)

Letters of Recommendation

Emailed Letters of Recommendation should be sent by the writer to info@appalachianhabitat.org (With the name of applicant in the subject line).

Sealed Letters of Recommendation may be included in postal mailed applications or mailed separately by the writer to the above address

For more information or questions about submitting applications, email info@appalachianhabitat.org call Ed McCoy at 540-339-0622.

Website: <https://appalachianhabitat.org/>

Scholarship Program Application

The Appalachian Habitat Association's (AHA) mission is to establish, maintain and promote the science-based management of wildlife habitat for the benefit of game and non-game species by raising funds for on-the-ground work on public lands; by supporting wildlife habitat education and research, and by encouraging wildlife habitat improvement on private lands.

Scholarship Application Instructions

1. Read the application information sheet carefully to determine eligibility before completing application.
2. Include your full name on the upper left corner of all pages, including attachments.
3. Make sure all portions of the application are complete and include all requested enclosures.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4. Applicant must sign application.
5. Return this application to AHA no later than **May 31**.

Part I: Application Information

Please type or print.

Date: _____

Applicant Name:

Permanent Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone No.: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____

PART II: Extracurricular Activities

Securely attach additional sheets if necessary.

List membership in school-related organizations (i.e. Honor Society, FFA, Beta Club, Science Club, Ecology Club, Student Council, etc.): If Applicable:

List elected leadership positions held in high school, college, or organizations:

List any activity that demonstrates community leadership and / or involvement (i.e. Scouts, 4-H, civic group or club, volunteer work, etc.):

List any awards received for school or community involvement:

List job experience (i.e. after school, summer, etc.):

How did you learn about the AHA Scholarship Program?

Name: _____

PART III: School Information

High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

College: _____

Major Study Area: _____

PART IV: Essay

Write a brief essay describing your commitment to conservation and improving wildlife habitat. Essay must be typewritten, double-space and should not exceed 500 words. Essay must include:

- . Why you will be a good investment if you are awarded this conservation scholarship
- . Any experiences and background that demonstrate your dedication to conservation and the preservation of our hunting heritage
- . Why hunting and conservation are important to you and your family

PART V: Letters of Reference

Include three letters of reference from teachers, counselors, community leaders, clergy, etc. (do not include relatives).

PART IV: Required Enclosure

Complete applications must include:

- . Official, sealed transcripts
- . Photo (minimum wallet size suitable for publication). Head shot only. If digital, please submit as jpg.

PART VII: Counselor or Signature and Stats

To be completed by counselor or advisor

Current Cumulative Grade point Average (unweighted) _____

*If your school does not use a 4.0 scale, please calculate and convert GPA to a 4.0 scale.

Applicant's rank in graduation class: _____ out of _____ (total number in class)

***Official, sealed transcripts are required.**

Signature of Guidance Counselor or Advisor:

Date

Applicant Name _____

PART VIII: Signature

By signing this form, I hereby grant the AHA the unconditional right to use my name, photograph and essay in connection with press releases and /or publications. I also certify that I have read and meet the eligibility requirements for the AHA scholarship.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Before mailing this application please check for the following:

- . I have completed the APPLICANT INFORMATION section

- . I have completed the EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES section

- . I have completed the SCHOOL INFORMATION section and acquired the signature of my guidance counselor or advisor

- . I have enclosed my ESSAY

- . I have enclosed three LETTERS OF REFERENCE

- . I have enclosed OFFICIAL, SEALED TRANSCRIPTS

- . I have enclosed a HEAD SHOT PHOTO of myself suitable for publication

- . I have SIGNED MY APPLICATION

- . I have read the APPLICANT/SCHOOL INFORMATION SHEET

- . Return this application to the scholarship committee no later than May 31.

Please duplicate form as needed