



**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines

Due to Peter Francisco SWCD no later than Friday, March 27, 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 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. A copy of a school transcript will not be accepted. Applicants shall demonstrate active interest in conservation.

One-year scholarships will be awarded to residents living in Buckingham and Cumberland County. Previous applicants will need to reapply each year.

Amount Awarded: Two \$2,000 scholarships will be given to residents of Buckingham and Cumberland Counties. A check will be issued directly to the student.

Deadlines:

March 27, 2026	Application must be submitted to Peter Francisco SWCD
April 1, 2026	Scholarship winners at District level will be announced
April 15, 2026	One application will be forwarded to VASWCD for review and screening for the VASWCD Educational Foundation Scholarship which also awards four \$2,000 scholarships statewide
Early May 2026	Scholarship award winners at state level will be announced

Return Application To: *Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District*

Attn: Charlotte Drake
16842 W. James Anderson Highway
Buckingham, VA 23921
(Office is located in USDA Service Center near Spouses Corner)
434-983-7923
charlotte.mabie@vaswcd.org

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

College Scholarship Application Deadline: **Friday, March 27, 2026**

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 - designating if high school or college 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 - 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 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 to Complete the Following:

Sponsoring SWCD: Peter Francisco SWCD Contact Phone Number: 434-983-7923

SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: Charlotte Drake