



We work with the people who work the land.

Cynthia Pridmore

Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship

College Scholarship Application & Guidelines

Deadline to Apply May 15, 2026

Purpose: To promote the education of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake High School Students in Agriculture, Environmental Education fields with an emphasis Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection.

To give financial support to students majoring in or showing an ardent desire to major in a course curriculum related to Natural Resource Conservation and/or Environmental Studies.

Qualifications: Scholarship will be awarded annually on behalf of the Virginia Dare of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Individual applicants must be full-time students enrolled in or who have applied to a college first-year level curriculum. Applicants shall document a 2.5 greater Grade Point Average or appropriate equivalent of individual scholastic achievement. The applicant's most recent official school transcript must accompany the application. Official Electronic Copies will be accepted. Copies of a school transcript will not be accepted. Applicants shall demonstrate an active interest in Conservation, Agriculture or Environmental Studies.

Applications will only be accepted from students in the City of Chesapeake or Virginia Beach. Student must reside or attend schools in either City. Eligible applicants must reside or attend school within the Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District (Virginia Beach, Chesapeake)

Amount Awarded: \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded (multiple scholarships may be awarded. The Board has the Discretion to increase the amount of the Scholarship).

Deadlines:

May 15, 2026	District's selected applicants with all supporting documentation must be received at the District Office
June 1, 2026	The scholarship award winner will be announced

Submitted applications will be reviewed and screened by the VA Dare Education Committee. All applications and information contained therein shall remain confidential.

The mission of the Cynthia Pridmore Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide educational opportunities to citizens of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake to become good stewards of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of all people.

All programs and services of the Virginia Dare Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or disability. We encourage minorities and traditionally underserved students to apply for our scholarship as we are dedicated to serving all citizens in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. All submitted paperwork is confidential and becomes the property of VA Dare SWCD.

Only Completed Application Packages will be processed by completing application on our website www.vadareswcd.com

CYNTHIA PRIDMORE VA DARE SWCD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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: _____

A. Educational Background (20 pts)

Attach your most recent official transcript. Your official transcript must show the official school seal.

1. High School Attending: _____

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: _____

B. Environmental Leadership & Activity Experience (15 pts)

List any environmental leadership or activity experience you may have included participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, Environmental/Conservation Clubs, 4-H Attach additional information as needed.

C. Other Leadership & Activity Experience (5 pts)

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 an 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. Attach additional information as needed.

D. Volunteer & Employment Experience (10 pts)

List any volunteer or employment experiences including your position and brief description of duties. Attach additional information as needed.

1. Volunteer Organization/Employer: _____
Position Held if Applicable: _____ Dates of Service: _____
Brief Description of Duties: _____

E. Financial Information and Other Circumstances (5 pts)

1. Are you applying for or will you receive a scholarship or loan from other sources? Please circle one. YES NO
2. If yes, give loan or scholarship sources and amounts:

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) or a personal situation you would like to share? _____

F. 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 reference 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 an ardent 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: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
2. Name of Reference: _____
Position/Relation to Applicant: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
3. Name of Reference: _____
Position/Relation to Applicant: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

G. Essays

H. Attach an essay of 400-500 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? (20 pts)

II. Attach a response of 100-150 words addressing why you deserve this scholarship. (15 pts)

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.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Reminder - Attachments to Include: Official Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, Essays & any additional information. Contact Kathleen Sullivan, District Manager at ksulliva@vbgov.com for questions or information.

VA Dare SWCD