

Application Open: December 20, 2024

Application Closes at 11:59 PM on March 1, 2025

The Careers in Conservation Scholarship Program's goal is to increase the number of qualified people committed to working in the field of natural resource management thereby supporting the mission of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Scholarship recipients will be students who are currently pursuing or have firm plans to pursue a college degree in natural resource management or other closely related fields. The Foundation's scholarship program is funded by generous donations from the Bowman family and other private donors.

Program website <https://ncsoilwater.org/programs/careers-in-conservation-scholarship-program/>

Application Form: <https://ncsoilwater.org/careers-in-conservation-scholarship-program-application/>

***** The Foundation accepts online applications only! *****

Program Basic Criteria

- The Foundation plans to award merit-based scholarships of up to \$1,000 per student per school year, renewable at the discretion of the Scholarship Selection Committee. Subsequent awards are contingent upon successful academic progression.
- **Current scholar awardees are required to submit a new application each year.**
- The applicant is expected to have a declared major in the following: agronomy, agricultural engineering, agriculture sustainability, agriculture education, animal science, forestry, natural resource conservation or management, plant science, soil science, water management, water quality, wildlife management or other closely related degree programs.
- **The applicant must be a resident of North Carolina** and have achieved academic excellence in their high school or in their undergraduate studies to date. During the selection process, consideration will be given to superior academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, honors, and achievements obtained.
- **The applicant must be planning to attend or be a current student at a North Carolina university or community college. Awards will only be made to North Carolina schools.**
- Applicant eligibility will be influenced by the amount of any scholarships previously awarded and any demonstrated financial hardships.
- Priority is given to students who have advanced in their undergraduate studies to demonstrate a clear commitment to achieve a Bachelor of Science degree in a course of study consistent with skill sets needed for seeking employment in the arena of natural resource management and agriculture. Students who have completed at least 50% of their required degree credit hours will receive additional consideration.
- **Applicants currently enrolled in college are required to submit an official transcript of all college courses completed by December 31, 2024. High School transcripts are acceptable if the student has not completed a semester of college as of December 31, 2024.** Official Transcripts are to be mailed or submitted electronically directly from the college or high school to the Foundation.

- Interviews may be held with qualifying applicants before a final decision is made by the Scholarship Selection Committee. Awards will be made in May 2025.
- Prior to awarding the scholarship, the recipient must confirm and be classified as a full-time college student both semesters (Fall of 2025/Spring of 2026).
- If recipient/student only needs funds for the Fall semester of 2025 due to graduation, this must be confirmed before award is made.
- Funds will be mailed directly to the college's financial aid office for payment of eligible expenses.
- Applicants may submit up to three letters of recommendation. **A support letter from your Soil and Water Conservation District Board or staff members is encouraged.**
- Letters should be submitted from the letter writer to Amanda Sand directly either by email at scholarship@ncsoilwater.org or mail (address below).

Additional questions should be directed to:

Amanda Sand, Executive Director at scholarship@ncsoilwater.org

Paper Transcripts (and paper letters of recommendation) should be mailed to:

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation

Attn: Amanda Sand

1401 Sunset Drive, Suite 202

Greensboro, NC 27408-7200

Thank you and good luck!