



Careers in Conservation Scholarship 2026/2027

Application Open: February 2, 2026

APPLICATION CLOSES AT 11:59 PM ON MARCH 31, 2026

Awards Announcement: May 2026

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** (see example majors below).

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

Application Form: https://form.jotform.com/NC_Fnd_Soil_Water/CIC-scholarship-2026

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

Program 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.**
- **Example Majors:** 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 given 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 (or related) 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.
- **College Students: an official transcript is required** showing of all college courses completed by December 31, 2025.
- **High School Students: an official transcript is required** as part of your application.

- **High school students that have completed college courses related to their degree (biology, chemistry, horticulture, soil science, etc.) must submit an official transcript from the college along with the official high school transcript.**
- **Official Transcripts are to be mailed or submitted electronically directly from the college or high school to the Foundation.** No unofficial transcripts will be accepted.
- Interviews may be held with qualifying applicants before a final decision is made by the Scholarship Selection Committee. **Awards will be announced in May 2026.**
- Prior to awarding the scholarship, the recipient must confirm and be classified as a full-time college student both semesters (Fall of 2026/Spring of 2027).
 - If recipient only needs funds for the Fall semester of 2026 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. Funds will be split across both semesters, if applicable.
- Recommendation letters are highly encouraged. 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.**
- Once the application is submitted, no revisions are allowed.
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Questions:

Amanda Sand, Executive Director: scholarship@ncsoilwater.org

Official Transcripts and Letters of Recommendation can be emailed to:

scholarship@ncsoilwater.org

or 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!