The Plein Environmental Scholarship Fund

The Plein Environmental Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to benefit students in need of financial assistance who are pursuing a degree at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) or a Virginia public four-year university.

To see the list of eligible four-year universities, visit https://www.schev.edu/students/applying-for-college/colleges-universities and click "Virginia Public Colleges and Universities".

Each awardee will receive $5,000 for their studies, given in the Fall semester of 2025. Three scholarships will be awarded per academic year.

Eligibility for 2025-2026 Scholarship:
- Student must be either:
  - a high school senior (graduating no later than June 2025) set to attend NVCC or a Virginia four-year public university, or
  - a current student at NVCC or a Virginia four-year public university.
- Student must be pursuing a degree in an environmental field of study. Possible degrees include: Environmental Science, Conservation, Forestry, Biology, Urban Planning, Economics, Public Policy, or otherwise related.
- Student must demonstrate financial need through the submission of a short written statement.
- Student must clearly and compellingly demonstrate why they wish to pursue an environmental field of study, and how they hope to utilize their degree, through the submission of an essay.

Completed applications must be received by **April 25th, 2025**. Applications must be emailed to scholarship@whfarmfoundation.org. Applications must include:
1. Completed Application Form (two pages)
2. Environmental Service Resume
3. Essay Responses
4. Copy of your high school and/or college transcript

Scholarship Awards:
The selection committee will evaluate applications based upon the applicant's GPA, essay responses, and financial need. Applicants will be notified by May 31st, 2025. Scholarship awards will be paid directly to the student's academic institution during the first week of August 2025.

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Plein Environmental Scholarship Application Form (Page 1 of 2)

Name: _____   Phone: _____

Email: _____   Current GPA: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Financial Need: Please write a short statement explaining your financial need.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What High School did/do you attend? _____

High School graduation date (month and year): _____

Applicants must graduate from high school no later than June 2025 to eligible for this scholarship.

Expected College or University: _____

Expected Major(s): _____

Expected College or University graduation year: _____

Please see the following page for a list of required attachments and essay questions.

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Academic Record:
Please provide a PDF copy of your current high school transcript. College students, please also provide your current college transcript. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

Resume:
Please attach an "Environmental Service" resume which lists activities you have participated in to learn more about the environment. This is not a formal resume, rather a chance to show your previous commitment to the environment. Examples of activities can include classes on climate change or the environment, volunteer work, extracurriculars, or personal side projects.

Essay Questions:
1. Tell the story of when you first learned about a particular environmental issue, and why that experience made you want to work in an environmental field. (300 words maximum)
2. Write about a time when you respectfully discussed an environmental issue with someone else. Did they agree with your opinion on the issue? Did your viewpoint change after speaking to them? (250 words maximum)

OPTIONAL: What is one topic related to the environment that you think is too often ignored? Why do you think it is overlooked? Why is it important to consider? (500 words maximum)

Certification:
I certify that the facts stated in my application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I understand that any false information will lead to disqualification.

_____   _____
Signature of Applicant   Date