The Plein Environmental Scholarship Fund

The Plein Environmental Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to benefit students in need of financial assistance who are pursuing an associate degree at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) and intending to receive admission to a four-year university to pursue a degree in an environmental field.

Each awardee can receive up to $15,000 over the course of four years of study.
- $2,500 per year for their first two years of study, to be completed at NVCC, followed by
- $5,000 per year for their final two years of study, to be completed at a 4-year Virginia public university.

Each recipient must continue to meet the renewal eligibility requirements each year.

Eligibility for 2023-2024 Scholarship:
- Student must be a graduating high school senior set to attend Northern Virginia Community College, or be a current first-year NVCC student.
- Student must be pursuing a two-year associate degree from NVCC with the intention of transferring to a four-year university to complete their bachelor’s degree.
- Student must be pursuing a degree in an environmental field of study. Possible degrees include: Environmental Science, Conservation, Environmental Studies, Forestry, 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.

Scholarship Renewal Eligibility Requirements:
Once a scholarship has been awarded, recipients of the scholarship must meet eligibility requirements for the scholarship to be renewed in subsequent years. Those requirements include a minimum GPA of 3.0, good standing with their respective school systems, and a continued commitment to obtain a degree pertaining to the environment.

Completed applications must be received by April 28th, 2023. Applications must be emailed to scholarship@whfarmfoundation.org. Applications must include:
1. Completed Application Form
2. Environmental Service Resume
3. Essay Responses
4. Copy of your high school transcript

Scholarship Awards:
Our selection committee will evaluate applications based upon the applicant’s GPA, essay responses, and financial need. Applicants will be notified by June 1st, 2023.
Plein Environmental Scholarship: Application Form

Name: ___________________________ Phone: _______________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________

Academic Record: Please provide a copy of your current high school transcript in PDF format.
Current GPA: _________________________________________________________

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

Expected School and Major: ____________________________________________

Resume:
Please attach an “Environmental Service” resume where you list 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 us 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. (max 300 words)
2. What are you most looking forward to learning in your four years of college? (max 250 words)
3. Tell us 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?
   (max 250 words)
   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? (max 500 words)

I certify that the facts stated above 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