

FRIENDS Founder Lynn Davis Scholarship Student Eligibility Information

FRIENDS Mission:

Friends of the Blue Ridge helps preserve, promote, and enhance the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of the Blue Ridge region.

Lynn Davis was a leading force behind the creation of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge in 1988 and has remained active with FRIENDS. In honor of her dedication, the Lynn Davis Scholarship Program has been established to assist students from Blue Ridge communities where our volunteer chapters operate. Lynn is a lifelong learner and spent her career serving communities and government agencies with an education focus so we can be good stewards of our natural world.

Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a high school senior (or equivalent if homeschooled) in the local FRIENDS Chapter's service area. To verify, a list of schools can be found on our website (www.blueridgefriends.org)
Exception: Recipients of a scholarship are eligible to reapply the next year.
- GPA of at least 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale or equivalent
- Plan to attend an accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher learning
- Plan to pursue a degree/career in environmental or cultural studies is preferred. An applicant may also indicate participation in activities that align with the FRIENDS mission.
 - FRIENDS has a broad definition of environmental studies, which includes studies in natural resources, sciences, engineering, land management, relative cultural studies (such as art, history, or cultural music like Old Time and Bluegrass music), and more.
 - The intention is to support a student with a passion to help preserve, promote, and enhance natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness for future generations.
- Align with the mission of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge by demonstrating a commitment to help preserve, promote, and enhance the natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness, such as art, cultural music, or history, for future generations
- Complete the entire application process:
 - Compilation of the scholarship packet requirements
 - Submit the packet to arrive by midnight on March 11, 2024. Note: Transcripts that must be mailed by the school will have a grace period of 5 days

Scholarship Packet Required Materials

1. Provide a personal letter/statement (typed, 500 words maximum)
 - On a separate sheet of paper, please prepare a letter/statement telling the selection committee about:
 - your passion for the preservation of natural resources and/or cultural heritage
 - your plan to impact the preservation of natural resources and/or cultural heritage in the future
 - your educational, career, and volunteer goals
2. Provide one (1) letter of recommendation
 - On a separate sheet of paper, based on the mission of FRIENDS stated on the first page of the application, the person writing a recommendation to the selection committee should explain why the student applying for this scholarship is a strong candidate to receive the award.
3. Provide an activity sheet (or equivalent such as a resume)
 - On a separate sheet of paper, please outline your:
 - participation in extracurricular activities including dates of participation
 - level of involvement including leadership roles
 - any awards and honors you have received
4. Provide the most recent copy of your school transcript (or homeschool equivalent)

A plan to pursue a degree/career in environmental or cultural studies is preferred. An applicant may also indicate participation in activities that align with the FRIENDS mission—what does that mean?

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Scholarship Application Deadline and Award Notification

Scholarship application deadline	arrive by midnight March 11
Award notification	by April 15

Is the scholarship one-time or renewable?

Scholarship recipients who are in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) are eligible to reapply for the scholarship during the subsequent year of study. Information about reapplying will be distributed directly to the previous year's recipients.

Selection Process

Selection process shall be a committee composed of members of a FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Chapter and/or members of the Board of Directors.

Administration of Scholarship

Scholarship awards in the amount of two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be presented by the local FRIENDS chapter yearly. The award will be applied to college expenses.

Scholarship Recognition

With permission, recipient names will be listed on the FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge website and printed materials.