

FRIENDS Founder Lynn Davis Scholarship

Student Eligibility Information (Previous Recipient)

FRIENDS Mission:

Working to make Blue Ridge communities better with a vision of vibrant communities that celebrate our unique culture, natural beauty, and quality of life.

Lynn Davis was a leading force behind the creation of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway (now FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge) in 1988 and has remained active with FRIENDS since then. 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 an enrolled college student who received the FRIENDS scholarship as a high school senior the previous year.
- GPA of at least 2.5 out of a 4.0 scale or equivalent.
- Attending an accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher learning.
- Pursuing a degree/career in science, environmental or cultural studies, or significantly participating as a volunteer to support activities as shown below:
 - FRIENDS has a broad definition of environmental studies, which includes studies in natural resources, sciences, engineering, land management, etc.
 - Cultural studies such as Old Time and Bluegrass music, Appalachian Studies, and more.
- Align with the mission of FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge by demonstrating a commitment to celebrate our unique culture, natural beauty, and quality of life.
- Complete the entire application process:
 - Compilation of the scholarship packet requirements
 - Submitting the packet on or before midnight March 16, 2026

Scholarship Packet Required Materials

1. Provide a personal letter/statement (typed, 500 words maximum).
 - On a separate sheet of paper, please explain how your experiences and education of the past year have impacted your passion for and your plan to impact the preservation of the natural resource and/or the cultural heritage of the Blue Ridge. **Note:** Please do not reuse your essay from last year.
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 you are a strong candidate to receive this award again. **Note:** Please do not reuse your letter of recommendation from last year.
3. Provide an activity sheet (or equivalent such as a resume).
 - On a separate sheet of paper, please outline your participation in extracurricular activities or work during your college experience.
4. Provide the most recent copy of your school transcript.

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?

FRIENDS has a broad definition of environmental studies, which includes studies in natural resources, sciences, engineering, land management, relative cultural studies (such as Old Time and Bluegrass music), and more. The intention is to support a student with a passion to help celebrate and preserve our unique culture, natural beauty and quality of life in the Blue Ridge.

Scholarship Application Deadline and Award Notification

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| Scholarship application deadline | March 16, 2026 |
| Award notification | April 15, 2026 |

The scholarship is renewable one time

Scholarship recipients who are in good academic standing in college with a GPA of 2.5 or higher are eligible to reapply for the scholarship during the following year of study (freshman/first year). Information about reapplying will be distributed directly to previous scholarship recipients.

Selection Process

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

Administration of Scholarship

The intent is to award up to 10 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to students who received the scholarship as graduating high school seniors. The award will be applied to college expenses.

Scholarship Recognition

Recipient names and photos will be listed on the FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge website and printed materials with permission.