

FRIENDS Founder Lynn Davis Scholarship

Student Eligibility Information (High School Seniors)

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 a high school senior at a high school (or homeschool equivalent) in the local FRIENDS Chapter's service area. **Note:** A college student reapplying for the scholarship should use the reapplicant application.
 - To verify, a list of schools can be found on our website (www.blueridgefriends.org).
 - Homeschool students are also eligible.
- 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 science, environmental or cultural studies, or significantly participate 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.
 - Relative 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 working to make Blue Ridge communities better in ways that celebrate our unique culture, natural beauty, and/or 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 prepare a letter/statement telling the selection committee about:
 - your passion for the preservation of our unique culture, natural beauty, and quality of life
 - your plan to impact the preservation of our unique culture, natural beauty, and quality of life for 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 you are 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/or honors you have received
4. Provide the most recent copy of your school transcript (or homeschool equivalent).

Applicant must plan to pursue a degree/career in environmental or cultural studies, or significantly participate as a volunteer to support 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, Appalachian Studies), 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

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 the local FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Chapter and/or members of the Board of Directors.

Administration of Scholarship

The intent is to award two (2) scholarships to high school seniors in the amount of \$1,000 each on behalf of the local FRIENDS chapter each year. 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.