

Berks County Conservation District Scholarship Program

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) is accepting scholarship applications from High School seniors within Berks County, or current College or University students whose permanent residency is within Berks County.

*This year's scholarship program will award over
\$10,000 in scholarships!*

Several scholarships available ~ the top scholarship amount is \$4,000!

*Review the information below and submit your completed application
on or before January 27, 2017.*

Good luck!

Qualifications:

- Applicant must be a Berks County High School senior or College student that will enter or is currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in 2017, who will be continuing their education with the intent of majoring in conservation, environmental science, forestry, agriculture, engineering or related studies.
- High School seniors or current College and University students must be accepted by or enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning. Failure to be enrolled in the stated major will be cause for the scholarship to be forfeited.
- The determination of whether the major course of study qualifies will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Berks County Conservation District.
- College students already enrolled in an undergraduate program related to conservation, engineering or other environmental major course of study must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.85 or higher.
- The scholarship application may be duplicated and distributed to all interested students.

- Students applying for scholarships will be required to submit all of the following:
 - ✓ **Completed Application**
 - ✓ **Academic Records**
 - ✓ **Acceptance Letter**
 - ✓ **Career Plans**
 - ✓ **A 500 - 1,000 word essay - “Healthy Soils are Full of Life”**
Topic – Healthy soils are a vital aspect of the natural environment and fundamental to the regeneration and sustainability of many living organisms, from plants to insects and earthworms to humans. Please explain and discuss how soils directly affect these organisms and the importance of how and why we should protect our soil resources.
 - ✓ **A 250 word essay**
Topic – *Why do you think you deserve the scholarship?*
 - ✓ **Personal Records**
 - ✓ **Transcript**

Interested applicants must have their entire scholarship application package in the office of the Berks County Conservation District no later than Monday, January 27, 2017.

All completed scholarship application packages need to be e-mailed to: Evan Corondi at Evan.Corondi@berkscd.com. Each submission must have multiple attachments, please do not scan all documents into one attachment. If packet is not complete a phone call will be made and an e-mail sent to the student requesting the missing information. At that time the student will be informed they have 24 hours to submit missing documentation or their packet will be marked as incomplete; an incomplete submission is not eligible to participate in the scholarship program this year.

If an applicant does not have access to e-mail, they need to contact Evan Corondi at 610-372-4657 ext. 212 to discuss alternative submission methods.

Scholarship winners will be notified by phone on or before February 27, 2017 and encouraged to attend the BCCD and Farm Service Agency Annual Banquet on October 23, 2017, where they will be recognized. Either student or someone on their behalf must be present during awards.

The BCCD continues to sponsor these scholarships in an effort to encourage students to continue their education in a conservation-related field. We appreciate your assistance in distributing the application to the appropriate students and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

District Board of Directors

Piper L. Sherburne, Chair
 Glenn R. Seidel, Vice Chair
 Brian D. Boyer, Treasurer
 Troy Alderfer
 Larry Gelsinger
 Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach
 Joseph Rosenbaum

Associate Directors

Jason Bailey Ross Stowell
 John Bicksler Mark Wolfskill
 Leonard Good
 Larry Kehl
 James McCarthy
 Steve Miller
 John Schueller



Berks County Conservation District Scholarship Application

Full Name: _____

Current Mailing/Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone/Cell Phone: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

E-mail address: _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____

Parent or Guardian Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone (if different from above): _____

The following will need to be submitted as part of the scholarship application package:

Academic Record

- High School, College or University name and address.
- List conservation/environmental courses.

Acceptance Letter

- Letter from the institution where education will be continued with an acceptable field of study.

Career Plans

- Career plans must be written in a clear and concise manner.

Essay #1

Topic of Essay:

“Healthy Soils are Full of Life”

- Healthy soils are a vital aspect of the natural environment and fundamental to the regeneration and sustainability of many living organisms, from plants to insects and earthworms to humans. Please explain and discuss how soils directly affect these organisms and the importance of how and why we should protect our soil resources.
- Essay must be between 500 and 1,000 words.
- Five in-text citations are required.
- Three ***credible*** sources are required; Wikipedia or “Wikipedia Like” citations will not be considered credible sources.
- Pictures, drawings or illustrations to support the essay are encouraged but need to be limited to two additional pages.
- Essay must be clear and concise with correct punctuation and grammar.

Essay #2

Topic of Essay:

Why you think you deserve the scholarship.

- Essay must be 250 words or less.
- Essay must be clear and concise with correct punctuation and grammar.

Personal Record

- Organizations: List school and community organizations in which you were or are currently involved. Include activities and dates of involvement.
- Awards: List any important awards and recognition you have received.
- Outstanding Accomplishments: List any outstanding accomplishments and how they relate to personal goals and aspirations.

Letter(s) of Recommendation

- Submit at least one, but no more than three letters of recommendation.

Good luck to all applicants!