

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.

*Over six scholarships available,
including the top scholarship of \$10,000!*

*Last year's scholarship program awarded over
\$20,000 in scholarships!*

Information on scholarship amounts will be available in February.

*Review the information below and submit your completed application
on or before March 25th, 2022.*

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 2022, 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.
- Students applying for scholarships will be required to submit all of the following:
 - ✓ **Completed Application (Page 3)**
 - ✓ **Academic Records/Transcript**
 - ✓ **Acceptance Letter**
 - ✓ **Career Plans**
 - ✓ **Personal Records**

- ✓ **A 500 - 1,000 word essay**

Topic- “Healthy Soil: Healthy Lfe!”

Soil is essential to all life. Soil is a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids, and organisms that together support life. A healthy soil is a living ecosystem in which dead organic matter forms the base of a food web consisting of microscopic and larger organisms.

Healthy soils are a vital aspect of the natural environment and are essential for healthy plant growth, human nutrition, and water filtration. Healthy soil supports a landscape that is more resilient to impacts of drought, flood, or fire. Soil helps to regulate the Earth’s climate and stores more carbon than all the world’s forests combined.

Please explain and discuss how soils directly affect organisms and/or the natural environment and the importance of how and why we should protect our soil resources.

- ✓ **Topic -A 250 word essay**

Topic - Why do you think you deserve the scholarship?

Interested applicants must submit their entire scholarship application package to the Berks County Conservation District no later than Friday, March 25, 2022.

All completed scholarship application packages need to be e-mailed to: Jennifer.brooks@berkscd.com. **Each submission must have multiple attachments, please do not scan all documents into one attachment. Please submit documents in Word or PDF format only.** 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, hard copies of the application will be accepted.

Scholarship winners will be notified by phone by the end of May 2022 and encouraged to attend the BCCD Annual Banquet August 8, 2022, 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

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Joseph Rosenbaum, Vice Chair
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Berks County Conservation District Scholarship Application

Please print

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/Transcript

- 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.

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.

Essay #1

Topic of Essay:

“Healthy Soil: Healthy Life”

- Soil is essential to all life. Soil is a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids, and organisms that together support life. A healthy soil is a living ecosystem in which dead organic matter forms the base of a food web consisting of microscopic and larger organisms.
- Healthy soils are a vital aspect of the natural environment and are essential for healthy plant growth, human nutrition, and water filtration. Healthy soil supports a landscape that is more resilient to impacts of drought, flood, or fire. Soil helps to regulate the Earth’s climate and stores more carbon than all the world’s forests combined.
- Please explain and discuss how soils directly affect organisms and/or the natural environment 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.

Good luck to all applicants!