

## **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 are available,  
including the top scholarship of \$10,000!*

*Last year's scholarship program awarded over  
\$30,000 in scholarships!*

*Information on scholarship amounts will be available in February.*

*Review the information below and submit your completed application  
on or before March 31, 2024.*

***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 2024, 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 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 another 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 5)**
- ✓ **Academic Records/Transcript**
- ✓ **Acceptance Letter**
- ✓ **Career Plans**
- ✓ **Personal Records**
- ✓ **A 500 - 1,000 word essay**

### **Topic- “May the Forest Be With You Always”**

Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation named for its forests. “Pennsylvania” translates from Latin to “Penn’s Woods.” Forests blanket more than 60 percent (16.6 million acres) of the Commonwealth.

These forests provide values and benefits to Pennsylvania citizens and beyond. They filter and protect drinking water and thousands of miles of streams. They provide critical habitat for plants and animals. They sequester carbon and clean our air. They provide places for a wide range of recreational opportunities, such as:

- Hunting
- Hiking
- Camping
- Fall foliage viewing

Forests function as steadfast protectors of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds. Forests are irreplaceable and the need to protect them is more important now than ever.

**Please explain and discuss some of the current threats our forests in Pennsylvania are facing, what you can do to assist in conservation methods, and the importance of how and why we should protect all of our forest resources for future generations.**

***Interested applicants must submit their entire scholarship application package to the Berks County Conservation District no later than March 31, 2024.***

All completed scholarship application packages need to be e-mailed to:

[jennifer.brooks@berkscd.com](mailto:jennifer.brooks@berkscd.com).

**Each submission must have all documents scanned into one attachment. Please submit document in Word or PDF format only.** If the 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 June 2024 and encouraged to attend the BCCD Annual Banquet on July 29, 2024, where they will be recognized. Either a 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.

### **Board of Directors**

Piper L. Sherburne – *Chair*

Joseph Rosenbaum- *Vice Chair/Farmer Member*

Jason Bailey – *Treasurer*

Tammy Bartsch – *Secretary*

Larry Gelsinger – *Farmer Member*

*Larry Kehl – Farmer Member*

Glenn R. Seidel – *Farmer Member*

Christian Y. Leinbach – *County Commissioner Member*

### **Associate Directors**

Leonard R. Good

Jim McCarthy

John Rost

David Beane

Geoff Price

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

#### ***Application***

- Fill out the application which is on page five of this form.

#### ***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***

#### ***Topic:***

***“May the Forest Be With You Always”***

- 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.

# **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):** \_\_\_\_\_

***Good luck to all applicants!***