



**FRIENDS OF
VALLE DE ORO**
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2018-2019 Scholarship Award Program

Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship

The Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge announces the **Friends of Valle de Oro Scholarship Award Program** for the 2018-2019 school year. Under the Program, one ***Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship*** in the amount of \$750 will be awarded to a college student who is planning to pursue an environmentally focused career or is currently enrolled in a conservation/environmental degree or certificate program.

Program Guidelines and Priorities:

Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria in order to apply:

- Attended a New Mexico High School or College and are currently enrolled in a (2)-year or (4)-year college or university in any location.
- Enrolled in or planning to attend a two (2)-year community college or four (4)-year college or university within the state of New Mexico.

Some preference will be given to applicants who have participated in a Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge or Friends of Valle de Oro NWR project, internship, or program, but is not required.

Completed applications must be received by the Friends of Valle de Oro no later than **August 1st, 2018**. Late applications, or portions of applications, will not be accepted.

Applicants must show proof of enrollment through the attached College Advisory Verification Form in order to receive the scholarship payment. The College Advisory Verification Form must be submitted by **September 15th, 2018**.

The Scholarship will be paid within one week of receipt of The College Advisory Verification Form. The award should be applied to tuition or education related materials (books, field or lab equipment, etc.) in the 2018-2019 school year.

This Scholarship can be awarded to an individual only one time.

Applicants will be required to provide reports on progress and use of funds by the following deadlines:

Mid-Term Report: **January 10th, 2019**

Final Report: **May 20th, 2019**

The applications will be reviewed and recipient selected by the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Scholarship Committee. The scholarship will be awarded and announced on **August 15th, 2018** and the winner is expected to attend (in personal or digitally) the Friends of Valle de Oro Gala (Friday, October 19th 5:30pm) to be publicly presented with the award.



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You can complete the application online at <https://goo.gl/forms/FCrOC1PDef96shwE3>
(this includes Application, Essay, Statement of Accuracy for Student)

If you require a paper form or have questions, please contact Aryn LaBrake at aryn@friendsofvalledeoro.org or 505-750-3383

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Mailing Address

Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Daytime telephone number: ()

Email Address:

Date of Birth: MM/DD/YYYY

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)_____ (On a 4.0 scale)

Name and Location of high school:

Name and Location of college:

Year: Fr. Soph. Jr. Sr.

Anticipated Field(s) of Study:

Wildlife Conservation

Habitat Restoration

Environmental Science

Water Management

Conservation Biologist

Geography and Env. Studies

Env. or Outdoor Education

Sustainability Studies

Environmental Law

Environmental Engineer

Environmental Health

Earth and Planetary Sciences

Other _____

List Public Service/Community/Government Activities, internships, projects, volunteer opportunities or work experience in the environment/conservation field. (List in descending order of significance)

- Be sure to highlight any experiences you may have had at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.



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Organization	Supervisor	Role	Dates	Activities/Duties

What academic, mentor, or volunteer experiences have you had that led to your interest in the environmental field and environmental focused career?

Describe one specific example of your leadership.

Do you have any additional information you would like to share with the scholarship selection committee?



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Essay (not to exceed 2,000 characters)

Write a short essay addressing the following points:

- Why you have chosen your anticipated field of study
- How will this scholarship help you reach your goal(s)
- What do you hope to do in your career and what types of job positions are you considering after graduating from college?
- Describe the environmentally related problems or needs of society you want to address when you enter the work field.

Provide the Name, Relationship and Contact Information of two References (ex: school counselor, advisor, teacher, coach, principal, mentor, work supervisor).

Reference 1

Name:

Relationship:

Email address:

Phone No:

Reference 2

Name:

Relationship:

Email address:

Phone No:

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR STUDENTS

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent, that if chosen as a scholarship winner, my picture may be taken and used to promote the Friends of Valle de Oro Scholarship Program. (Winner may waive photo due to unusual or compelling circumstances.)

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to the Friends of Valle de Oro Scholarship policy, I will do my best to be present at the **October 19th, 2018** Gala which will include the scholarship awards ceremony. (If circumstances do not allow for a physical presence, attendance may be done by digital means.)

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, I will be responsible for submitting to the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR a one-paragraph mid-year report by **January 10th, 2019** on the status of my program and a report at the end of the school year by **May 20th, 2019** stating how the scholarship was used and how it will help me reach my career goal(s).

I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ Date _____



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COLLEGE ADVISOR VERIFICATION OF PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

If you receive the 2018-2019 Opening Doors to Nature Education Scholarship, you must either have your college advisor fill out this form, or submit a signed letter on letterhead (via mail or email) verifying enrollment for the 2018 fall semester which includes your advisors phone number and email.

Once completed, this form or the signed letter on letterhead should be submitted to:

Friends of Valle de Oro NWR
c/o Scholarship Committee
7851 2nd St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Or digitally to:

aryn@friendsofvalledeoro.org

This College Advisor Verification of Program Enrollment form or signed letter on letterhead is due September 15th, 2018 in order for scholarship funds to be dispersed.

I hereby affirm that _____ (scholarship applicant) is enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university for the 2018 fall semester.

Name of Advisor or Counselor: _____

School: _____

Contact information (email and phone): _____

Signature of Advisor or Counselor *: _____ Date _____



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Application Packet Checklist:

- Application
- References provided within application
- Essay
- Statement of Accuracy for Students (Due September 15th, 2018 if awarded scholarship)

Complete online application at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/FCrOC1PDef96shwE3>
and send supplementary documents to aryn@friendsofvalledeoro.org

OR

Email fully completed application packet electronically to
aryn@friendsofvalledeoro.org

OR

If you have chosen to use a paper version
Mail the fully completed application packet to:

Friends of Valle de Oro NWR
c/o Scholarship Committee
7851 2nd St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Reminder:

Applications must be received by the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR Scholarship Committee no later than 5:00 pm on **August 1st, 2018.**

We encourage all students to submit their application electronically since using the postal service would require putting it in the mail 3-4 days prior to the deadline.