**2023-2024 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 Program** for the **2023-2024** school year. Under the Program this year, the Friends will award **four** ***Opening Doors to Nature Scholarships*** in the amount of **$500 each**. These scholarships will be awarded to **four undergraduate college students** who are planning to pursue an environmentally focused career or are currently enrolled in an undergraduate 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** as an undergraduate in a (2)-year or (4)-year college or university in any location. **OR**
* Enrolled in or are planning to attend a two (2)-year community college or four (4)-year college or university within the state of New Mexico. Undergraduates only.

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 this experience is not required.

Completed applications must be received by the Friends of Valle de Oro no later than **11:59 pm** **Friday** **August 4, 2023**. Late applications, or portions of applications, will not be accepted.

Applicants must show proof of enrollment through the attached College Advisory Verification Form (below) in order to receive the scholarship payment. The College Advisory Verification Form must be submitted on or before **Friday** **September 8, 2023**.

The Scholarships 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 2023-2024 school year.

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

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

* Mid-Term Report: **Friday** **January 5, 2024**
* Final Year-end Report: **Friday** **May 31, 2024**

A reminder e-mail and/or phone call will be given a week or so prior to the report being due. Your advisor will be notified if reports are not received on time.

Applications will be reviewed and recipients selected by the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Scholarship Committee. The scholarships will be awarded and announced on **Friday** **August 11, 2023.**If possible, thewinners should participate, either in person or virtually, in the Friends of Valle de Oro Gala or alternative event held in fall 2023, to be publicly presented with the award.

**You can find the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/applyFVdO2023>. You can also complete the application and save it as a Word document or PDF, then send it by email. Or you can complete and print and complete the application, then scan and send it digitally (along with your essay) to joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org, or send the hardcopy to:**

Friends of Valle de Oro NWR

c/o Scholarship Committee

7851 2nd St. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87105

If you require a paper form or have questions, please contact Joan Morrison at joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org

Last Name: First Name: Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address

Street: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: State: Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (On a 4.0 scale)

Name and Location of high school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Location of college:

Classification for 2023-2024 school year (**circle one**): Fr. Soph. Jr. Sr.

Anticipated Field(s) of Study (check all that apply):

 \_\_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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the table below, list your public service/community/government activities, internships, projects, volunteer opportunities or work experience in the environment/conservation field. Feel free to add more columns or rows as needed.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Supervisor** | **Role** | **Dates** | **Activities/Duties** |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

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

What experiences (for example, any of those listed above) have you had that led to your interest in the environmental field and environmental focused career?

Describe examples of your leadership.

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

Essay (not to exceed 2,000 characters)

Write a short essay addressing **all** of the following points:

1) Describe the environmentally related problems or needs of society you want to address when you enter the work field

2) Why you have chosen your anticipated field of study?

3) What types of job positions are you considering after graduating from college?

4) How will this scholarship help you succeed during the 2023-2024 academic year?

**REFERENCES**

Provide the Name, Relationship and Contact Information for **two** References (i.e. school counselor, advisor, teacher, coach, principal, mentor, work supervisor). A family member cannot be listed as a reference.

Reference 1

Name: Relationship:

Email address: Phone No:

Reference 2

Name: Relationship:

Email address: Phone No:

**STUDENT’S STATEMENT OF ACCURACY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

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 winner of a 2023-2024 Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship, I will have my college advisor complete and submit the College Advisory Verification of Enrollment Form (found in this packet) or a signed letter on official college letterhead verifying my enrollment for the 2023 fall semester by **Friday September 8, 2023** or I forfeit my scholarship.

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 Golden Gala or alternate event which will include the scholarship awards ceremony. (Attendance may be done by digital means depending on the format of this year’s event).

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-two paragraph mid-year report by **Friday** **January 5, 2024** on the status of my program and a report at the end of the school year by **Friday** **May 31, 2024** 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. (Application Packet Checklist found below.) Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

Signature of scholarship applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE ADVISORY VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT FORM**

If you are chosen as a winner of a 2023-2024 Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship, you must have your **college** **advisor** complete and submit either this form or a signed letter on official college letterhead verifying your enrollment for the 2023 fall semester. **Either submission must include your advisor’s phone number and email.** Submission may be made either by snail mail or e-mail.

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

Friends of Valle de Oro NWR

c/o Scholarship Committee

7851 2nd St. SW

Albuquerque, NM 87105

Or scanned and submitted digitally to: joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org

This College Advisory Verification of Enrollment form or signed letter on letterhead is due **Friday September 8, 2023** 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 2023 fall semester.

Name of Advisor or Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of College or University: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Advisor Contact information: (e-mail) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(phone #) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Advisor or Counselor : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Application Packet Checklist – **Due by 11:59 pm Friday** **August 4, 2023**:

\_\_\_ Application (this document, or [online](https://tinyurl.com/applyFVdO2023))

\_\_\_ Completed College Advisory Verification of Enrollment Form

\_\_\_ References provided within application

\_\_\_ Essay

\_\_\_ Signed Student’s Statement of Accuracy and Responsibility

**Complete online application** with this **Google Form:**

<https://tinyurl.com/applyFVdO2023>send the completed **College Advisory Verification Form and Essay** tojoan@friendsofvalledeoro.org

**OR**

**Print and fill out this document and scan and e-mail the fully completed application packet, including your essay, electronically to joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org**

**OR**

**Mail the fully completed application packet and essay 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 11:59 pm Friday** **August 4, 2023.**

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