



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

## **2024-2025 Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship Program**

The Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge announces the **Friends of Valle de Oro Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship Program** for the **2024-2025** school year. Under the Program this year, the Friends will award scholarships in the amount of **\$500 each**. These scholarships will be awarded to **undergraduate college students** who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate conservation/environmental-focused degree or certificate program.

### **Program Guidelines and Priorities:**

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

- Attended a High School or College within New Mexico **and are currently enrolled** as an undergraduate at a (2)-year community college or (4)-year college or university in any location.  
**OR**
- Attended a High School or College outside of New Mexico but **are currently enrolled** in a two (2)-year community college or four (4)-year college or university **within the state of New Mexico. Undergraduates only.**
- Students who are eligible can apply in more than one year, but this Scholarship can be awarded to an individual only one time.

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 Monday July 15, 2024**. Late applications, or incomplete applications, will not be accepted.

Applications will be reviewed, and award recipients selected by the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Scholarship Committee. The scholarship winners will be announced on **Monday August 5, 2024**.

### **Requirements of Scholarship Winners**

Scholarship winners must show proof of enrollment through the College Advisory Verification Form (below) in order to receive the scholarship payment. The College Advisory Verification Form must be submitted to the scholarship committee on or before **11:59 pm Friday September 6, 2024**.

The Scholarship funds will be paid upon 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 2024-2025 school year.

Scholarship winners should plan to participate, either in person or virtually, at the September or October 2024 Board Meeting of the Friends of Valle de Oro to meet the board members and say a few words about their academic plan and how the scholarship has helped them work toward their educational goals.



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Scholarship winners are required to provide short reports on academic progress and use of funds by the following deadlines:

- Mid-Year Report: due by 11:59 pm **Friday January 3, 2025**
- Final Year-end Report: due by 11:59 pm **Friday May 30, 2025**

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

**You can find the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/applyFVdO2024>, and we encourage submittal of the application and essay using this online form. However, if necessary, you can print and complete the application and essay and send the hardcopies to the Friends address:**

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

If you have any questions about the application or submittal process, please contact Joan Morrison at [joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org).

**Remember, all application materials must be received by the Friends of Valle de Oro no later than 11:59 pm Monday July 15, 2024.**

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**APPLICATION**

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 or university: \_\_\_\_\_



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Classification for 2024-2025 school year (**circle one**): Fr. Soph. Jr. Sr.

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

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Conservation     | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Restoration    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management          | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Biologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography and Env. Studies   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Env. or Outdoor Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Law            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Engineer    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health   | <input type="checkbox"/> Earth and Planetary Sciences |

Other \_\_\_\_\_

List your public service/community/government activities, internships, projects, volunteer or work experience in the environmental/conservation field. **Please give the following information for each experience:**

- Organization name
- Supervisor name (contact information if available)
- Dates of your involvement
- Activities/duties

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

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

Describe examples of your leadership or experiences in which you have worked independently.

Please describe here any additional information you would like to share with the scholarship selection committee.



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

### **ESSAY**

The essay is an important component of how the scholarship committee evaluates applicants. Please write a short essay that addresses the following points. Your essay will be evaluated on the quality of your writing and how well you address **all four points**.

- 1) Describe the environmental-related problems or needs of society you want to address when you enter the work field.
- 2) Why have you 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 2024-2025 academic year?

**APPLICATION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**



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### **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. If chosen as a scholarship winner, I give consent that my photo may be taken and used to promote the Friends of Valle de Oro Nature Scholarship Program. (Winner may waive photo due to unusual or compelling circumstances.)

I hereby understand that if chosen as a winner of a 2024-2025 Opening Doors to Nature Scholarship, I will have my college advisor complete and submit the College Advisory Verification of Enrollment Form (below) or a signed letter on official college letterhead verifying my enrollment for the 2024 fall semester by 11:59 pm **Friday September 6, 2024** 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, either in person or virtually, at either the September or October 2024 meeting of the Friends of Valle de Oro Board of Directors.

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 3, 2025** on the status of my program and academic work, and a report at the end of the school year by **Friday May 30, 2025** stating how the scholarship was used and how it helped me work toward my educational and career goals.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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**Application Packet Checklist – Due by 11:59 pm Monday July 15, 2024:**

- Application, including references
- Essay
- Signed Student's Statement of Accuracy and Responsibility

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

<https://tinyurl.com/applyFVdO2024>

send the **Essay** to [joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org)

If you are unable to complete the application online, please contact [joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org).

**Reminder:**

**Applications and essay must be received by the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR Scholarship Committee no later than 11:59 pm Monday July 15, 2024.**

**Late applications, or incomplete applications, will not be accepted.**



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**If you are selected as a scholarship winner, you will be required to submit this form:**

**COLLEGE ADVISORY VERIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT FORM**

If you are chosen as a winner of a 2024-2025 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 2024 fall semester in a conservation/environmental-focused degree or certificate program.

**Either submission must include your advisor's signature, phone number and email.** To submit, have your advisor complete this form online, then send it as a Word document or pdf by email to: [joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org](mailto:joan@friendsofvalledeoro.org). Or you can print the form, have your advisor complete it, then scan and send it by email to the same address.

This College Advisory Verification of Enrollment form or signed letter on letterhead is due by 11:59 pm **Friday September 6, 2024**, in order for scholarship funds to be dispersed.

I hereby affirm that \_\_\_\_\_ (scholarship winner) is enrolled in a two-year or four-year college or university for the 2024 fall semester.

Name of Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Signature of College Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_