



Soil & Water Conservation District

William Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Application

The Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District Student Scholarship is available to Buncombe County students attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university in a conservation, agriculture, or other natural resource-related program.

To qualify, students must submit a proposal for a volunteer conservation project in Buncombe County. A selection committee of Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District staff and Supervisors will select **one** scholarship awardee based on the attached rubric.

The \$1, 000 scholarship award funds will be dispersed directly to the institution upon successful of the volunteer project by the **June 30, 2025** deadline and enrollment. The awarded individual will be expected to attend a Buncombe SWCD Board meeting to present the results of their project and accept the scholarship.

Deadline to apply: April 1, 2025

Applicant Information

Name

Birthdate

Home Address

City

Zip Code

Phone

Email

Please select all the following that apply:

Pursuing a conservation, agriculture, or other natural resource-related field

A Buncombe County resident

A first-generation college student

Education Information

High School

Graduation Date

1st Choice College Choice College/University

Applied /Accepted/Currently Attending

2nd Choice College Choice College/University

Applied /Accepted/Currently Attending

Intended major(s) or interest area(s) is/are (please list in order of preference):

Essays

Please complete **both** of the following prompts.

1. Describe your career goals. What influenced them? How will your career support soil and water health and conservation? (300 words)

2. Design and describe a one-day conservation volunteer project based in Buncombe County that you plan to execute if selected for the scholarship. Include information on the site location, what environmental issue the project addresses, why you chose that issue and site, a detailed plan to accomplish your project including a timeline. (700 words)

Timeline

April 1, 2025 – Deadline to apply

April 30, 2025 – Winning applicant announced

June 30, 2025 – Deadline to complete volunteer project

July 9, 2025 – Presentation to the Board, award dispersed

Please return completed application and questions to environmental.educators@buncombecounty.org or mail the application to:

Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
Attn: Jen Knight and Rose Wall
49 Mount Carmel Road
Asheville NC, 28806

Essay Section Rubric

Score	Project Location	Project Scope	Project Planning	Writing
4	Public land (e.g. municipal, County, State and/or Federal parks, roadways, public schools)	Includes all of the following components: restoration/remediation, data sampling, land management, education/awareness,	Plans are manageable, appropriate, comprehensive; project has every reasonable expectation of success.	Clear, concise, easy to understand; no spelling/grammar errors
3	Protected/conserved private land (e.g. conservation easements, land trust properties, private nature preserve)	Includes three of the above components	Logical and thoughtful plan for manageable execution of the project; high likelihood of success	Clear and generally easy to understand; minimal spelling/grammar errors
2	River/creek work on private land (e.g. streambank restoration, erosion control on agricultural land)	Includes two of the above components	Plans appear manageable but there is some uncertainty; moderate likelihood of success	Adequate description but lacking some clarity or conciseness; some spelling/grammar errors
1	Other private land projects (e.g. pollinator garden at a private school)	Includes one of the above components	Plans are unclear, do not connect to objectives, and/or do not seem manageable; questionable likelihood of success	Description is unclear and/or verbose; frequent spelling/grammar errors
0	Not listed	Includes none of the above components	Plans are omitted, unmanageable, or inappropriate for the objectives; Unlikely to succeed	Unclear what is being proposed; offensive/vulgar language