



Florida Wild for All
Scholarship **2025 Application**

As part of Alachua Conservation Trust's (ACT) commitment to better address the intersectionality between our work as a land conservation nonprofit and the equality and representation needs that exist in our community, ACT is pleased to announce the 2025 Florida Wild for All Scholarship. With this award we seek to amplify and celebrate the existing voices of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Multiracial People of Color interested in pursuing a career path in natural resources management or protection of the environment of Florida.

Eligibility Criteria

Please check the following boxes to verify you meet the scholarship requirements (for your application to be considered, you must meet **all three** eligibility requirements listed below):

- I am interested in pursuing a career path in the environment and/or natural resource management fields.
- I identify as Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Multiracial, or a Person of Color.
- I live in one of the following Florida counties: Alachua, Taylor, Volusia, Pasco, Seminole, Gilchrist, Citrus, Union, Marion, Suwannee, Sumter, Putnam, Lake, Levy, Madison, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Hernando, Lafayette.

Please select the option below that applies best:

- I am a Senior high school student planning to pursue an undergraduate college degree at a 2 or 4-year institution; **or**
- I am currently pursuing an undergraduate college degree at a 2 or 4-year institution; **or**
- I am enrolled in a program related to Natural Resource Management (i.e., AmeriCorps).

Acceptable Use of Scholarship Funds

At least three (3) recipients will be awarded \$250-500 each for the 2025-2026 school year. These funds may be used for expenses as they relate to pursuing a career path in the environment and/or natural resource management fields. To amplify and celebrate the selected scholarship recipients, they will also have the opportunity to be featured in ACT's biannual newsletter, extended an option to participate in an ACT internship (<https://www.alachuaconservationtrust.org/internships>), invited to an annual scholarship recipient gathering, and given tickets to attend the Conservation Stewards Awards with three guests of their choice.

To Apply

Applications will be accepted online or by mail from February 1, 2025 - April 1, 2025. Award recipients will be notified by May 15, 2025. Scholarship awards will be mailed by July 31, 2024.

This application may be completed online at www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org/scholarships or mailed to:

Alachua Conservation Trust
Attn: Ema Olmos
7204 SE County Road 234
Gainesville, FL 32641

Applicant Info & Short Answer

Please fill in the information below and complete the short answer section:

Full Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

How did you hear about this scholarship? _____

Name of high school or college attending in 2025-2026 school year. If you are not in school, please indicate your plans for 2025-2026.

What is your interested field of study or career? In 3 to 5 sentences please describe what motivated you to choose this field of study or future career.

Short Essay: Please select one of the following short essay prompts to answer. Only answer one prompt and indicate the prompt number selected at the beginning of your essay. **(3,000-character maximum)**

- Prompt #1: Describe your favorite outdoor place. What makes this outdoor place special and why should outdoor places like this be protected?

OR

- Prompt # 2: What does spending time outside mean to you? How would you encourage other people you care about to spend time outdoors?

OR

- Prompt # 3: Do you have a fond memory in the outdoors? Describe that memory in detail and how it may have helped shape your relationship with nature today.

Note: Prior to writing your selected essay, please review the attached evaluation sheet to see the criteria that judges will use to evaluate your essay. Please attach your essay to the end of this application.

Short Essay Evaluation Sheet

CATEGORY	SCORE (1 - 10)
<p>Clear effort and thought are showcased in the essay through well-chosen examples and details.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>1 means the writer did not demonstrate clear effort and thought is showcased in the piece through well-chosen examples and details.</p> <p>5 means the writer demonstrated some effort and thought is showcased in the piece through well-chosen examples and details.</p> <p>10 means the writer did demonstrate clear effort and thought is showcased in the piece through well-chosen examples and details.</p>
<p>The writer describes their personal way of experiencing or connecting with nature as they know it.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>1 means this essay does not address the writer's experience or connection with nature.</p> <p>5 means this essay demonstrated some detail on the topic but not all connections were clear.</p> <p>10 means this essay describes in detail the writer's experience and connection to nature.</p>
<p>The writer describes how their experience or connection to nature has changed or impacted them.</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>1 means this essay does not describe how their experience with nature has changed or impacted them.</p> <p>5 means this essay creates some descriptive detail of how their experience with nature has changed or impacted them.</p> <p>10 means this essay provides a very clear description of how their experience with nature has changed or impacted them.</p>
<p>TOTAL SCORE</p>	

Judge's Notes and Reaction to Essay (Did this essay stand out to you? Why or why not?)