

2026

FEDERAL WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION

National Capital Environmental Scholarship Program

What are the Federal Water Quality Association scholarships?

Four scholarships in the amount of *\$2000 each are planned to be awarded in 2026 to encourage young people to prepare for careers in environmental protection by supporting studies leading to a bachelor's degree in applicable sciences or engineering. *(per sponsor contributions)

Who is eligible to apply? Graduating seniors from high schools in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area and surrounding counties, planning to pursue environmental careers. (You must be accepted prior to receiving the award, into a 4-year bachelor's program in an acceptable field of study by an institution of higher learning). Acceptable areas of study: environmental sciences, environmental engineering, civil engineering, biology, chemistry, chemical engineering, or natural resource planning – other areas of the environment will also be considered.

How are applications judged? By a committee of water professionals, on academic achievement and above all on the applicant's level of commitment to environmental protection (essay must reflect environmentally-related studies and/or service, leadership, and overall presentation including emphasis on science courses, relevance of program of study, and sincerity of commitment).

What MUST you send besides the application?

- 1) School transcript
- 2) SAT (or ACT) scores
- 3) Reference letter(s), preferably from a science teacher or environmentalist
- 4) List of extra-curricular activities or brief description
- 5) Copy of letter of acceptance from a 4-year college, and
- 6) ESSAY (one page preferred) on ONE of the following topics:
 - a. How your own actions have promoted environmental protection/awareness.
 - b. Why you would like to pursue a career in environmental protection/pollution control; what factors led to your decision; and what you hope to accomplish through a career in this field.
 - c. How your choice of extracurricular activities, elective classes, and non-science classes will contribute to your career goals.

When is the application deadline? Your application **MUST** be received by **Monday, April 13, 2026 (no exceptions)**. Winners will be notified in early May.