

# TRI-COUNTY/CITY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 L. GORDON “LINK” LINKOUS SCHOLARSHIP

## Purpose

The L. Gordon “Link” Linkous Scholarship promotes the education of Tri-County/City SWCD resident students pursuing scientific and technical fields that emphasize natural resource conservation, environmental protection, and/or environmental studies.

## History

L. Gordon Linkous has been an esteemed colleague, mentor, advisor, and friend to countless Tri County City District Directors, staff, and area residents. The scholarship is named for Mr. Linkous in honor of his 60 years of dedicated service to the conservation of natural resources within the District.

Hailing from Blacksburg, Mr. Linkous arrived in the area in 1958 where he began to work for the USDA’s Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS). At that time, the District had no paid staff, and it was USDA’s staff who planned and implemented technical projects and provided services on the District’s behalf. After 30 years with the USDA, Mr. Linkous retired only to be pressed back into service and promptly hired by Tri County City as the District’s first District Manager. Mr. Linkous served as the District Manager for the next eight years, laying the groundwork for many of the District’s programs we operate today. Following a second “retirement”, he was elected by the City of Fredericksburg voters to serve on the District’s Board of Directors. After stepping down from the elected position, the Board then appointed Mr. Linkous as an Associate Director.

During Mr. Linkous’s 60 years with the District, he designed and installed numerous conservation projects; increased the adoption of conservation-focused best management practices by farmers and other citizens; and raised awareness of people of all ages about natural resource conservation.

In recognition of his numerous contributions, the *L. Gordon “Link” Linkous Scholarship* serves to support and inspire future stewards and leaders following in the footsteps of extraordinary conservationists such as Mr. Linkous.

## Qualifications

- Applicant must reside in King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, or Fredericksburg.
- Applicant must be pursuing a degree in the fields of natural resource conservation such as forestry, soils, hydrology, agriculture, wildlife, natural resource management, or environmental sciences.
- Applicant must document a class ranking in the top 20% of their graduate class OR a 3.0 or greater GPA OR appropriate equivalent of individual scholastic achievement.
- Applicant must be either a rising or current student of an accredited high education institution for the upcoming academic year on either a part-time or full-time basis.

## Requirements

- Demonstrate how educational interest relates to the conservation of natural resources.
- Provide most recent official school transcript. A copy of school transcript will NOT be accepted.
- Provide letters of recommendation from 3 non-family references
- Return completed application form and all supplementary materials by 4:30 on June 1, 2024 to

**Tri County City Soil & Water Conservation District  
4811 Carr Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408**

**THE L. GORDON “LINK” LINKOUS SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTS ONE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP.**

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## Personal Information:

1. Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle
2. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. County or City of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Local Soil & Water Conservation District: \_\_\_\_\_ Tri County City SWCD
5. Home Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Email: \_\_\_\_\_
8. How did you learn about the scholarship? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Educational Background (20 Points)

*Attach your most recent official transcript. Your official transcript must show the official school seal.*

1. High school attending: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Anticipated Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Scholastic Average(GPA): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of students in your class: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_
6. College Planning to Attend: *Include College Name and Location*  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Intended Field of Study or Major: \_\_\_\_\_

## Environmental Leadership & Activity Experience (15 Points)

*Attach additional information as needed.*

List any environmental leadership or activity experience you may have included participation in Envirothon, Youth Conservation Camp, 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), etc.

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

## Other Leadership & Activity Experience (5 points)

*Attach additional information as needed.*

List all other organizations and important extra-curricular activities in which you have or are currently participating. Indicate any activities in which you hold or have held office and not which position. Include other activities such as athletics, music, drama, dance, public speaking, clubs, societies, public events/exhibits or awards, list honors or letters as earned.

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

## Volunteer & Paid Experience (10 Points)

*Attach additional information as needed.*

List any other volunteer or paid experiences including your position, date of service, and brief description of duties.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Financial Information & Other Circumstances (5 Points)

*While this is primarily a merit-based scholarship, the review committee may take consideration of need or other special circumstances. The more detail provided about your need and why you deserve this scholarship the more it is helpful to the review committee. Attach more details if necessary.*

1. Are you applying for, or will you receive a scholarship or loan from other sources?

Please circle one. YES NO

2. If YES, please list loan and/or scholarship sources and estimated amounts that you are applying for.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In addition to the above, financing from your education will primarily come from: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have any other circumstances (first generation college student, multiple siblings, etc.) or a personal situation you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_

## References/Letters of Recommendation (10 Points)

Attach recommendation letters from at least 3 references—other than family members—who can provide additional information about your academic and community activities. Share with your references that the purpose of this scholarship is to promote through education the conservation of our natural resources by providing financial support to students majoring in or showing a strong desire to major in a curriculum related to natural resource conservation or environmental studies. List below details on those from whom you have requested recommendation letters.

1. Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Relation to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Relation to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Relation to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay (35 Points)

Attach a typed essay of approximately 500-650 words describing yourself and your involvement/interest in the environment. Address what you feel is the most important environmental issue in your community and why. How can you assist and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources?

## Signatures & Certificates

In submitting this application, I hereby certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted. If declared a recipient of this scholarship, I will provide TCCSWCD a statement that may be used for publicity purposes.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reminder- attachments to Include: Official Transcript, Letters of Recommendation, Essays, & any additional information.

Sponsoring SWCD: Tri County City SWCD Contact Phone Number: 540-656-2401  
SWCD Staff Point of Contact Regarding Scholarships: Madison Morgan