

2020-2021
Columbia County Conservation District
Dave Ferguson Scholarship

Frequently asked questions and answers.

Q – What do I need to cover in my essay?

A – Essay should include all four areas.

- 1) Define the importance of healthy forests to landowners and communities
- 2) Give an overview of activities that can be implemented by landowners, farmers, organizations and others to enhance and improve forest land
- 3) How the conservation district can help landowners address the resource concern that results from the lack of forest management; conservation practices (talk with NRCS Staff if needed)
- 4) Provide an actual example of a landowner/organization who has been helped by the conservation district (May use photos & videos and district will help locate landowners, if needed)

Q – Who is eligible?

A – Columbia County residents who are currently high school sophomores, juniors or seniors, and who have a grade point average of at least 2.5 are eligible.

Q – What is the prize structure?

A – The Columbia County Conservation District awards a one time scholarship of \$500. Areas are encouraged to offer a \$500.00 scholarship. Scholarships given at the district and area level are solely at the discretion of the conservation district and area leadership. AACD awards one time scholarships of \$1,000 and \$500.

Q – What are the deadlines?

A – Districts should close their entry period on **February 19, 2021**. Applications should be received in the district offices by that date. Districts will then judge and send in the name of each winner to Area Presidents no later than **April 19, 2021**. Area contests will be decided, and winners' names sent to AACD in Little Rock by **June 18, 2021**. The Area winners will be judged by an independent body of judges with expertise in the subject matter. The State Winners will be notified by mail immediately after judging.

Q – When and how do I get my scholarship?

A – **Once a student has registered at the college/university of their choice they ask the Office of Registrar to send a letter directly to Columbia County Conservation District stating that they have been accepted for full admission. The funds are sent directly to the college/university as a credit. The funds can be used for room and board, fees & tuition, and books. Please note that we do not accept anything from the student's directly. The letter must come from the Office of Registrar and signed by the Registrar. Letters should be mailed to:**

**Columbia County Conservation District
100 E. University MSC 9432
Magnolia, AR 71753**

Q – Where can I get more information?

A – There are numerous websites dedicated to forest management. Here are a few that might be helpful.

- 1) Natural Resources Conservation Service – National Agroforestry Center
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/nac/>
- 2) Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division
<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/>