

Black River Audubon Society Scholarship

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BY OCTOBER 1 TO:
Black River Audubon Society, P.O. Box 33, Elyria, OH 44036**

Scholarship Description:

Black River Audubon Society will award annually (1) \$1,000 scholarship to a Lorain County college student who wishes to pursue bachelor's degree in environmental studies, Forestry, Marine, Wildlife Biology, Sustainable Agriculture, or related fields. Such studies should be in alignment with the Black River Audubon's stated mission: "Protecting birds and other wildlife through conservation, education, and advocacy." Selection will be based on quality of application responses, academic history, letters of recommendation, and evidence of interest in the chosen field through related projects and activities.

Award Amount:

An award of \$1000 will be granted for tuition and fees. Funds will be paid directly to the school. The scholarship will be awarded in October of the calendar year for the use of the student in the fall semester of the same calendar year. A check will be provided to the school after receiving a copy of the registered fall semester classes from the award winner.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a resident of Lorain County
- Document completion of a minimum of 24 college level credit hours
- Document achievement of a minimum of a 2.75 GPA
- Demonstrate community involvement or environmental activities
- Stated intent to enroll in a program leading to a 4-year degree in Environmental Studies, Forestry, Marine or Wildlife Biology, Sustainable Agriculture, or related fields

Application Requirements:

- Complete the scholarship application and provide all required supporting documentation by September 1st.
- Official college transcript
- List of activities and organizational involvements
- Two letters of recommendations from instructors, community leaders and/or employers to be mailed directly to Black River Audubon Society
- Statement of financial need
- Statement of intent to enter a 4-year program in one of the targeted fields

Selection of Scholarship Recipient:

The scholarship recipient will be chosen by a committee composed of at least 3 Black River Audubon Society members with at least one of these being a Black River Audubon Society board member. If deemed necessary, the opinion of a confidential outside expert can be solicited for clarification or validation of any of the facts or documents of an applicant.

Prior to the meeting to review applications and decide on a recipient, the chair of the committee will send electronic copies of all applications and supporting documentation to each committee member. At the review/decision meeting the committee will vote with a unanimous vote required to award a scholarship. The committee can also decide that none of the candidates qualify for an award and the scholarship will be deferred for that fiscal year.

The results of the selection process will be reviewed with the Board of the Black River Audubon Society at the next scheduled board meeting.

Selection of the scholarship recipient is the sole discretion of the scholarship committee and the Board of the Black River Audubon Society.

Conflict of Interest:

At all stages of the review process care must be taken to ensure that there is no conflict of interest pertaining to the selection of an award recipient. Any member of the scholarship selection committee will recuse themselves from voting on any candidates that constitute a potential conflict of interest including but not limited to individuals or are:

- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Aunt or Uncle
- Employer
- Current teacher

Award Presentation:

The scholarship committee will contact recipient following selection via letter no later than October 1. The recipient will be announced and introduced at the November general meeting of the Black River Audubon Society.

The Black River Audubon Society Scholarship Award recipient is selected solely on basis of merit without any consideration of race, ethnicity, sexual preference, or religious affiliation.