

2026 Nature Camp Scholarship Application

Green Spring Garden Club Inc.
Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists
John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
Williamsburg Bird Club
Williamsburg Garden Club

Nature Camp, a non-profit camp operating since 1939, is located in Vesuvius VA and offers an ideal environment for students currently in 5th-12th grade who have a genuine interest in conservation and the natural world. The goal of Nature Camp is to foster an appreciation and love for nature through direct experience and to inspire the young people of today to become environmentally responsible and conscientious citizens of tomorrow. It is first and foremost an academic camp that emphasizes hands-on, field-based, experiential learning. During their two weeks at Nature Camp, students can study in a variety of settings, including classrooms both inside and out, and spend much of their time behind the eyepieces of binoculars, knee-deep in a cold stream, running with butterfly nets, and completing written assignments. While there is hiking, a swimming pool, and a recreation field for free time, those seeking a recreational experience will not be happy at this camp.

The five organizations listed above have combined application efforts in order to streamline the process. By completing the attached forms in a timely manner, you are applying for a scholarship from any of the five participating organizations. Each scholarship winner will be notified by one of the organizations.

This scholarship application is also available online at: williamsburgbirdclub.org, greenspringgardenclub.org, vnps.org/johnclayton/, www.gcvirginia.org/main/club-details/williamsburg, and historicrivers.org. Applicants should also visit the Nature Camp's web site for more information and to download an application to Nature Camp at naturecamp.net. If you have any scholarship questions, email: jjones184@cox.net.

Use your **FALL 2025** grade level to determine your session and dates:

1st Session (grades 10-12): June 14–June 27, 2026	3rd Session (grades 7-8): July 12- July 25, 2026
2nd Session (grades 8 - 9): June 28 – July 11, 2026	4th Session (grades 5-6): July 26–Aug. 8, 2026

There are three steps to this application process.

1. Fill out and return the attached scholarship application in a timely fashion.
2. Write a short (250-300 word) personal essay about yourself and your love of nature (instructions attached).
3. Ask a teacher or group leader to provide a recommendation for you. Provide the selected adult with a **stamped** envelope as well as a copy of the recommendation form.

2026 NATURE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Williamsburg Garden Club
Williamsburg Bird Club
John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists
Green Spring Garden Club Inc.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!

Name of scholarship applicant: _____

Address: _____ County/City: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Cell Number: _____ Parent's Email: _____

Student's Cell Number (if applicable) : _____

Student's Email (if applicable): _____

Gender: _____ Date of Birth _____

School you presently attend: _____ Present Grade _____

- Have you attended Nature Camp before? Yes _____ No _____
- If yes, did you receive a scholarship? Yes _____ No _____
- If you had a scholarship, where was it from? _____
- How did you learn about this scholarship? _____
- What is your area of interest to study at Nature Camp this summer?

PHOTO/MEDIA RELEASE: Parents, please sign below to give permission for us to publish your child's name and/or photo on our website, in our newsletters, or in local newspapers if he/she is awarded a scholarship.

Student's Essay for a 2026 Nature Camp Scholarship

Please write **in your own handwriting** a short essay (250-300 words) sharing—

- why you want to attend Nature Camp and how the experience will benefit you;
- how you feel a scholarship would enable you to attend;
- some examples of your activities at home, school, or community that reflect your interest in nature.

Your essay may be written on the back of this paper or on another sheet and attached to this application. Please **SIGN** your name and date at the bottom of your essay. Your signature affirms that you composed the essay yourself.

Applications for the scholarships should be **received no later than October 31st**. Mail to:

Judy Jones
3012 Heritage Landing Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

NOTE: Winners will be notified by each organization's selection committee by November 15th.

2026 Nature Camp Scholarship Recommendation

Student's Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Position: _____

How do you know this student?*** _____

This student has applied for a full scholarship to Nature Camp. This two-week camp is unique in its academic focus and emphasizes hands-on, field-based, experiential education in natural history and environmental studies. Each camper will be required to attend daily classes, to maintain a notebook/journal, to complete all written assignments, and to participate in outdoor activities in all types of weather. They are also expected to accept academic challenges with enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work. For more information and to better understand the goals of the camp, you can visit the website at naturecamp.net.

Your answers on this questionnaire will help the scholarship selection committee determine if this student would benefit from the Nature Camp experience. Please help us out by sharing with us some information about this student.

***If the student is home-schooled, the recommendation must be completed by an adult (other than the parent) who has worked with the student on a REGULAR basis (i.e., Scout leader).

- Tell us some of the classes/activities this student has been involved with that reflect their interest in nature and science.
- Tell us how you think this student might benefit from the two weeks in Nature Camp.
- Describe how the student performs in a group situation.
- Please provide any additional comments below or on the back of this page in support of this student's Nature Camp scholarship application. Thank you!

Signature and date

Email address

Please mail this recommendation directly to Judy Jones, 3012 Heritage Landing Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185 in the stamped envelope provided by the student. This recommendation should be **received no later than October 31st**. Thank you!