

## PRESS RELEASE

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Caption: DDWS scholarship recipients 2019

### **March 31 DDWS scholarships application deadline**

Application deadline for a number of scholarships from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, is March 31, 2020. High school seniors, college students, and graduate students in or from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties pursuing degrees in environmental-related studies can apply.

The scholarships will be awarded at a special ceremony at the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island in June 2020.

Now in its 14th year, the DDWS scholarship program presented its first awards in 2006, donated by Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession. To date, the program has awarded \$138,400.

“Tarpon Bay Explorers started the program by offering two \$1,000 scholarships in 2005,” said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller. “When four applicants turned out to be highly deserving, they doubled their commitment that year. Through the years, co-owner Wendy Schnapp has increased her annual contribution to \$5,000 and has awarded a total of 51 scholarships. We applaud Tarpon Bay Explorer’s commitment to conservation education, always generous support of the refuge, and effective seeding of a program that now annually awards up to \$15,000 to local students.”

Interested students can find more information and printable application forms at [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships).

It is still possible to honor friends and family members in 2020 with a conservation scholarship in their name. To learn more, please contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

Named scholarships to date for 2020 include:

Richard Bailey Memorial Scholarships

Mike and Terry Baldwin Scholarship

Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship

Dr. H. Randall Deming Scholarship for Conservation and Environmental Studies, a permanently endowed scholarship

Hans & Leslie Fleischner Scholarship

Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship

Win & Marilyn Kloosterman Education Scholarship, a permanently endowed scholarship

Francine and Barry Litofsky Scholarship

Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarships

Jane Werner Environmental Scholarship, a permanently endowed scholarship

#### ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop profits.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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