



Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere, stabilize the soil, filter water, provide healthy habitat for wildlife and offer many additional benefits – for nature, people and biodiversity. Not only is it necessary to protect existing trees and plant new ones, but it's also important to advocate and educate about trees and forest conservation within your community.

Return this form, your essay and two letters of recommendation by April 1, 2021 to the

Rich Mountain Conservation District, 508 7th St, Mena, AR 71953

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CURRENT SCHOOL _____ GRADE: _____

PLANNED/CURRENT COLLEGE MAJOR: _____

I certify that I am a resident of Polk County, a high school senior or a college student, I have a grade point average of at least 2.5, and I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from responsible adults in my community.

Also, please find enclosed my essay on the topic, "Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities" (Minimum length 750 words).

I understand that if I win this scholarship, I am eligible for the Area Contest where I may have the opportunity to win additional scholarship funds. Furthermore, I agree to represent Rich Mountain Conservation District in that contest. I understand that if I win the Area Contest I agree to represent the Area at the State Contest. I understand that I should immediately contact AACD if I voluntarily withdraw my name from consideration due to a change of plans regarding college.

Signed _____
(Student)

(date)

Memo To: Students, Teachers, Counselors and Youth Leaders

From: Rich Mountain Conservation District

Date: February 11, 2021

Subject: Conservation Scholarship

Enclosed is information on the 2020-2021 Rich Mountain Conservation District Scholarship Contest. This contest will give high school seniors and current college students from Polk County the opportunity to win up to **\$1000** first place and **\$500** for second place towards college expenses when they choose a conservation or agriculture related course of study at an accredited Arkansas college or university. The high school senior that wins will also be eligible to compete for scholarship funds at the area and state level contests.

The local scholarship awards will be:

Polk County current high school senior (1st Place - \$1,000 2nd Place - \$500)

Polk County current college student (1st Place - \$1,000 2nd Place - \$500)

The area and state AACD scholarship awards are limited to high school seniors with additional awards of: 1st Place - \$1,000 2nd Place - \$500

The essay should include all four items of the following components and be at least 750 words long:

Theme: "Healthy Forests-Healthy Communities"

- 1) Define the importance of healthy forests as it relates to conservation and protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, etc. and providing recreational opportunities.
- 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)

In addition to the essay, applicants must provide 2 letters of recommendation from responsible adults in the community and the attached entry form.

The enclosed information sheet and entry forms should be distributed immediately to any eligible student so they can return their entries by the deadline. The closing date for entries is April 1, 2021.

This is a program sponsored by the Rich Mountain Conservation District and the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts in an effort to assist young people interested in careers in the conservation of our natural resources. We hope you will encourage participation by those in your classes or groups.

For more entry forms, or more information, please contact the Rich Mountain Conservation District at **479-437-6044**

Sincerely,

Allen Stewart
Chairman