

American Birding Association's 2019 Young Birder Scholarships



Application Information

The American Birding Association (ABA) provides scholarships to help young people who are interested in birds to attend summer camps, workshops, training programs, conventions and other bird-related activities. The funds for our scholarships have been generously donated from:

- ◆ ABA Members
- ◆ Richard E. Andrews Memorial Scholarship
 - ◆ This scholarship requires a follow-up letter to the Andrews Family after your event ends.
- ◆ Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures
- ◆ Zeiss Sports Optics

Over the years, ABA has helped many young birders attend summer camps, workshops and conferences. Many of our ABA scholarship recipients have gone on to discover careers in birding or related fields of study.

To start the application process, you will need to prepare several things to apply for a scholarship:

- ◆ Determine which camp or program you want to attend.
- ◆ Create a budget and make sure you can afford to attend. Discuss this with your parents/guardian, and with your birding mentors.
- ◆ Finally, you should contact the organizers of your event and register your intent to attend.

ABA generally awards scholarships up to \$500.00, as funding allows, but in some exceptional circumstances, ABA may award more if we see a case with special need. The best way to increase your chances of winning an ABA scholarship is to demonstrate your dedication to birds and creatively designing ways you can raise the matching half of your scholarship.

Some examples that young birders can do to earn matching funds are:

- ◆ Approach a local bird club, garden club or similar organization for funds or sponsorship, perhaps in return for offering a program to the club about your camp experience.
- ◆ Go Fund Me or similar web based crowdsourcing.
- ◆ Offering to lead bird walks for a local birding group, retail store, nature center, or public library.

- ◆ Making goods that you can sell (T-shirts, note cards, bird photography or prints of your drawings, etc.)

Included along with your ABA Scholarship Application, (use a separate form for the Richard E. Andrews Scholarship), we require a letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor or bird club committee member that should advocate what they know about your interest and commitment to birds and birding.

We also require a short essay written by the applicant, no longer than two sides of letter-size paper, telling us about the importance of birds in their life. Do you try to teach others about birds? Do you draw or photograph the birds you see? Do you do any survey or volunteer work? Is listing the most interesting thing to you? We want to know what it is about birds that really stimulates and maintains your interest. Be sure to include information about why you want to attend the chosen event in the essay.

In summary, here's what you need to do:

- ABA membership is in good standing
- Research the event you want to attend
- Put together your budget
- Pre-Register for the event
- Find ways to contribute to your own event fee
- Contact a teacher or mentor to write you a letter of recommendation
- Complete your application form
- Write your essay
- Send your application form, essay, and letter of recommendation postmarked to the ABA on or before March 1, 2019**

Scholarship announcements will be made by March 31, 2019. If you have paid for camp you will be issued a refund if you are awarded a scholarship.



Good Birding and Good Luck!

Send application submissions to:

American Birding Association - Youth Scholarships P. O. Box 744 Delaware City, DE 19706