

American Birding Association's 2020 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 by:

- ABA Membership Donations
- Richard E. Andrews Memorial Scholarship*
- Zeiss Sport Optics
- Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures

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 services to the club
- Offering to lead bird walks for a local birding group or retail store

- 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, (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.

Your application requires a short essay written by you, the applicant, no longer than two sides of letter-size paper, telling us about the importance of birds/birding/birding community in your 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 your chosen event in the essay.

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

- Research your event
- Put together your budget
- Preregister for the event
- Find ways to contribute to your event's fee
- Contact a teacher or leader to write you a letter of recommendation
- Complete your application form
- Write your essay
- Send your application form, essay, and letter of recommendation to the ABA by March 2, 2020**

Scholarship announcements will be made by April 3, 2020.

***NOTE: the Richard E. Andrews Scholarship requires a one page report after the event and thank you to the family within one month after the event for which you are awarded.**

Good Birding and Good Luck!

Send application submissions to:

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