



Joseph S. Onisko Environmental Scholarship 2026-2027 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Joseph S. Onisko, Jr. Environmental Sciences Scholarship Fund, in memory of Joseph S. Onisko, Jr., was generously established at the Community Foundation in 2020 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Onisko. The purpose and focus of this scholarship fund is to provide scholarship support for qualified students pursuing a post-secondary education in the field of Environmental Sciences or a related area.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be a high school senior graduating from a public or private high school in Southern Beaufort County, South Carolina.
- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen and legal resident of Beaufort County.
- Applicant must show evidence they have been accepted and are planning to attend an accredited college, university, or technical college.
- Applicant must show evidence of outstanding academic and personal achievements.
- Applicant plans to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree program in the area of Environmental Sciences or a related area. A preference may be given to those applicants with a focus in Marine Sciences.
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent on an alternate scale. Should have a score equivalent to or better than the state average on tests designed to measure aptitude for college (e.g., SAT, ACT).

Application Requirements

1. A completed [online scholarship application](#).
2. Typed essay (approximately 500 words) explaining the applicant's interest and plans to pursue a career in the field of Environmental Sciences, how this scholarship will assist the applicant in achieving their academic and career goals and saved as a separate document and uploaded into the scholarship portal.
3. An official copy of the applicant's most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, **uploaded into the online application via 3rd party email from a school counselor or teacher**.
4. Two letters of recommendation completed by adult non-family members, sent via third party email from the references.
5. **Financial need is not a requirement**; however, applicant may include a copy of the Submission Summary from the FAFSA - showing Student Aid Index as additional information for further consideration by the Scholarship Advisory Committee.
6. Selected finalists must attend a personal interview with the Joseph S. Onisko, Jr. Environmental Sciences Scholarship Advisory Committee.

Scholarship Type	Undergraduate/Post-Secondary	How to Apply	Click Here
Award	Varied, may have multiple recipients	Deadline	March 2, 2026

Selection of Recipients

The Scholarship Advisory Committee shall select recipients (subject to approval by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry Board of Directors). Scholarship funds will be awarded to cover educational costs for: tuition/fees, room and board, and books. Specific costs to be covered will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Advisory Committee. Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, religion, age, or national origin.

Announcement of Scholarship Awards

The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry will send an official award letter and related information to each recipient. A public announcement of scholarship recipients may be arranged by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Recipients may be further recognized through Awards Day programs at their schools.

Distribution of Scholarship Funds

The Community Foundation will advise all scholarship recipients of the distribution method of scholarship awards and review the students' responsibilities to the Scholarship Program they have been selected for. These responsibilities may include sending transcripts at the end of the year for renewable scholarships, and providing notification of all address changes or changes in student status or enrollment. In accordance with the Community Foundation's policy, scholarship funds will be paid in the form of a check made payable to the college/school of the scholarship recipient. Checks will be mailed to the college/school. Notification of payment will be sent to the scholarship recipient.