



Turtle Trackers - Linda Zambelli Family Scholarship 2026-27 Guidelines

Scholarship Information

The Turtle Trackers - Linda Zambelli Family Scholarship Fund was generously established in 2025 by members of the Turtle Trackers Board of Directors, to honor the life and legacy of Linda Zambelli, in recognition of her leadership, volunteerism, and dedication to the Turtle Trackers. 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 Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences or a related area.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants are those who meet the following application requirements:

1. Applicant must be a high school senior graduating from a public or private high school within the Turtle Trackers service area, in Beaufort County or Jasper County in South Carolina.
2. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen and legal resident of Beaufort County or Jasper County.
3. Applicant must show evidence they have been accepted and are planning to attend an accredited college or university.
4. Applicant must show evidence of outstanding academic and personal achievements.
5. Applicant must plan to pursue a 2- or 4-year degree program in the areas of Environmental Sciences, STEM, Education or Marine Biology. A preference may be given to applicants with a focus in Marine Biology.
6. Applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent on an alternate scale, and 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 Marine Biology or Environmental Science and how this scholarship will assist the applicant in achieving their academic and career goals.
3. An official copy of the applicant's most recent transcript(s) showing grades for at least two years, sent via third 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. Academic Merit is Required, *Financial need **is considered***. Applicant must include a copy of the Submission Summary from the FAFSA - showing Student Aid Index as additional information for consideration by the Scholarship Advisory Committee.
6. Selected finalists may be required to attend a personal interview with the Turtle Trackers Linda Zambelli Scholarship Advisory Committee.

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| Scholarship Type | Undergraduate/Post-Secondary | How to Apply | Click Here |
| Award | Varied, may have multiple recipients | Deadline | March 1, 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.