



# SOUTHERN VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## *Curtis Randolph McCargo Memorial Scholarship* Scholarship Application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Curtis Randolph McCargo Memorial Scholarship is awarded to  
Halifax County High School Seniors with excellent community citizenship.**

The Curtis Randolph McCargo Memorial Scholarship Committee awards funds on the basis of a comprehensive process. Areas that are reviewed by the Committee include but are not limited to the following: Academic Accomplishments, Community Service, References, and Personal Essay.

The Curtis Randolph McCargo Scholarship pays scholarship funds via the Southern Virginia Higher Education Foundation, (SVHEF). SVHEF will issue a check directly to the specified college. The award is to be used for tuition and books only. The scholarships awarded are without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religious, gender or sexual orientation. Scholarships are based upon the availability of funds and additional qualifying criteria.

**Application deadline: March 31st.**

**SVHEF Contact: Liza Fulton Scholarships and Outreach 434-572-5448 [lizafulton@svhef.org](mailto:lizafulton@svhef.org)**

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### Scholarship Applicants MUST Provide:

1. Completed Application Form *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*
2. Personal Essay Attach a personal essay that discusses your need for a scholarship and your passion/plans in your area of study. Some things to consider when writing this essay are: your participation in extracurricular activities and organizations, academic recognition, short and long-term goals and career plans. *(Please view the sample essay and letter of recommendation that may be used as guidance.)*
3. Two Professional or Academic Reference Letters *(Must be from Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Employer, Supervisor; MUST BE SIGNED by writer)*

★ You will be notified by phone or email regarding the status of your application.

Submit application via email to [lizafulton@svhef.org](mailto:lizafulton@svhef.org)

Submit application by mail or in person to:

S V H E F 180 Factory Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

Please **provide** your answers below. If the application is illegible it will be returned as INCOMPLETE.

1	Last Name:	First Name:
2	Mailing Address:: Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	
3	Telephone Number: (     ) Email address: _____	
4	What college will you attend (SVCC, DCC, ODU) _____ Area of Study _____ What is your expected Graduation Date? _____	

**Statement of Accuracy:**

I hereby affirm that all of the above stated information provided by me to the Foundation @ SVHEC Scholarship Committee is true, correct and without forgery. I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the Foundation and/or Southern Virginia Higher Education Center or the Scholarship Program.

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner, according to scholarship policy, I must provide evidence of enrollment/registration at the post-secondary institution before scholarship funds can be awarded.

**The information provided is for the use of the Curtis Randolph McCargo Memorial Scholarship Committee and FOUNDATION only.**

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID#** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE ESSAY:** Dear FOUNDATION Staff and Scholarship Committee Members,

It is a cliché to say that I've always known what I want to do with my life, but in my case it happens to be true. When I first visited Sea World as a young child, I fell in love with marine animals in general. Specifically, I felt drawn to manatees. I was compelled by their placid and friendly nature. I knew then and there that I wanted to dedicate my life to protecting these beautiful creatures.

Since that day in Orlando, I have spent much of my spare time learning everything there is to know about manatees. As a junior high and high school student, I attempted to read scholarly articles on manatees from scientific journals. I annoyed my friends and family with scientific facts about manatees-- such as that they are close relatives of elephants--at the dinner table. I watched documentaries, and even mapped their migration pattern on a wall map my sister gave me for my birthday.

When I was chosen from hundreds of applicants to take part in a summer internship with Sea World, I fell even more in love with these gentle giants. I also learned a very important and valuable lesson: prior to this internship, I had imagined becoming a marine biologist, working directly with the animals in their care both in captivity and in the wild. However, during the internship, I discovered that this is not where my strengths lie. Unfortunately, I am not a strong student in science or math, which are required skills to become a marine biologist. Although this was a disheartening realization, I found that I possess other strengths that can still be of great value to manatees and other endangered marine mammals: my skills as a public relations manager and communicator. During the internship, I helped write new lessons and presentations for elementary school groups visiting the park and developed a series of fun activities for children to help them learn more about manatees as well as conservation of endangered species in general. I also worked directly with the park's conservation and communication director, and helped develop a new local outreach program designed to educate Floridians on how to avoid hitting a manatee when boating. My supervisor recommended me to the Save the Manatee Foundation so in addition to my full-time internship at SeaWorld, I interned with the Save the Manatee Foundation part-time. It was there that I witnessed the manatee rescue and conservation effort first hand, and worked directly with the marine biologists in developing fund-raising and awareness-raising campaigns. I found that the foundation's social media presence was lacking, and, using skills I learned from Sea World, I helped them raise over \$5,000 through a Twitter challenge, which we linked to the various social media outlets of the World Wildlife Federation.

While I know that your organization typically awards scholarships to students planning to major in disciplines directly related to conservation such as environmental studies or zoology, I feel that the public relations side of conservation is just as important as the actual work done on the ground. Whether it is reducing one's carbon footprint, or saving the manatees, these are efforts that, in order to be successful, must involve the larger public.

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith

**SAMPLE REFERENCE LETTER:**

Dear Scholarship Committee Members,

\_\_\_\_\_ is a student of mine at Halifax County High School participating in the dual enrollment Nursing Program. I have known her since August 2018 and thoroughly enjoy having her in my class. I recommend \_\_\_\_\_ for a FOUNDATION scholarship without reservations. Following graduation, \_\_\_\_\_ plans to further her education in the nursing field, which is a career that I feel is a good fit for her.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a well-rounded, well mannered, pleasant, and hardworking student that completes assignments on time. She cares about her academics and always puts forth her best effort with completing assignments on time. She cares about her academics and always puts forth her best effort when completing assignments. \_\_\_\_\_ understands the importance of higher education and I believe she will be successful.

Along with maintaining her academics, \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the co-curricular clubs HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) and DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) at HCHS. Also, she was a member of the HCHS Cheerleading Squad during her 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, and a member of the Swim Team and FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) her 10th grade year. Outside of school, \_\_\_\_\_ helps with teaching younger girls gymnastics.

\_\_\_\_\_ has always been polite and respectful to me, her classmates, and all staff members and residents of the facility where clinicals are held. She has a good work ethic and completes her work in a timely manner. She is dependable, courteous, and responsible.

It is a joy to have \_\_\_\_\_ in my class. She demonstrates professionalism, dedication, and integrity and is always willing to help others as needed- both in the classroom and clinical setting. She loves being around people and helping those in need.

I respectfully ask that I give \_\_\_\_\_ full consideration for this scholarship. Her work ethic, dedication, and personal characteristics are just a few reasons why she is deserving of this scholarship. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me via email at \_\_\_\_ or by phone \_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

Linda Smith, RN, BSN, BSP, Halifax Occupations Teacher

Halifax County High School