



Big Bend Chapter

FNGLA Scholarship Application

Introduction of scholarship

Each year the Big Bend Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) awards one or more scholarships to students. The scholarship program was started in 1994 to encourage students to obtain a degree in horticulture or a related field and enter the Florida horticulture and landscape industry. In 2009, scholarship opportunities were extended to persons seeking FNGLA certification.

Eligibility

Students who reside in the Big Bend area will have first priority. However, applicants are accepted from other areas. Students are also encouraged to seek scholarship opportunities from other FNGLA Chapters and the National Foliage Foundation. (See FNGLA's web site for additional scholarship information.)

The student should be pursuing

- 1) A course of study at a technical center, community college or university leading to a career in Florida's nursery and landscape industry.
 - a. The student may be an entering freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student in an accredited college or university in Florida or out of state.
 - b. Students are eligible to receive the scholarship for more than one year provided the course of study is not changed and other eligibility requirements are met. Students who anticipate changing majors are discouraged from making application.

Or

- 2) Designation as an FNGLA Florida Certified Horticulture Professional (FCHP), an industry-recognized certification for Florida's nursery and landscape industry.
 - a. The scholarship can cover the exam fee, the cost of the study manual, an appropriate training course or certification preparatory class and student membership in FNGLA.

Number and Amount of Scholarships Awarded Annually

The number of scholarships awarded annually by the Big Bend Chapter of FNGLA will vary depending on the number of qualified candidates submitting applications and on available chapter scholarship funds. The amount of the scholarships will vary in amount up to \$3,000, at the committee's discretion, depending on available chapter scholarship funds, and on the number of applications received.

Method of Payment and Award Presentation

Recipients of the scholarship and their parents (if under 18 years of age) will be presented the scholarship “award” as guests of the Big Bend Chapter- FNGLA at a designated chapter meeting. Scholarship monies will be dispersed according to the guidelines of the Certification Department of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association in Orlando and applied to the appropriate exam.

The college scholarship program is designed for a complete year of study. Unused funds accrued should the student drop out of college shall be returned to the Big Bend Chapter-FNGLA.

The certification scholarship program is designed for successful completion of the exam within six months from scholarship award. Unused funds, accrued should the student not complete the certification process in one year, shall be returned to the Big Bend Chapter-FNGLA

Criteria for Selection

The following criteria will be used in selecting recipients of the scholarship: scholastic achievement, financial need, interest in Florida’s nursery and landscape industry and thoroughness of application. Past recipients of the scholarship will generally receive priority for the award provided that there has been no change in eligibility requirements.

Scholarship Application Due Date

Scholarship applications are due by June 1 of each year. Application should be submitted to the chairperson of the scholarship committee. Applications are reviewed within 60 days after deadline date and recipients are informed by the scholarship committee chair.

Members of the Scholarship Committee are:

Steve Bos, Tallahassee Nurseries; steve@tallahasseenurseries.com, (850)3852162

Paul Brock, Tallahassee Nurseries; paulbrock@tallahasseenurseries.com, (850)3852162

Sheila Gmeiner, Tallahassee Nurseries; sheila@tallahasseenurseries.com, (850)3852162

Mickey Clickner, Tallahassee Nurseries; mickey@tallahasseenurseries.com, (850)3852162

Jonathan Burns, Tallahassee Nurseries; jonathan@tallahasseenurseries.com, (850)3852162

David Oglesby, Oglesby Plants International; DavidO@Oglesbytc.com, (800)762-3229

Wayne Tharpe; tharpe_w@hotmail.com, (850)352-4668

Applicant and Submission Requirements

Applicants for Big Bend Chapter-FNGLA scholarship awards should submit requests as follows:

- Cover letter requesting assistance from FNGLA’s Big Bend Chapter
- A goal statement of your plans for a career in the “Green Industry” (maximum 300 word essay)
- Past work history, including a letter of reference from supervisor
- Letter of reference from a teacher

- Copies of school transcripts
- List of honors, achievement awards, volunteer work or club involvement
- Statement on school letterhead showing costs for one year

Or

- Statement from FNGLA Certification Department showing costs of certification process
- Itemized statement of financial aid to include family support, personal income or other scholarships received

The applicant should also possess a 3.0 GPA if pursuing a study at a technical center, community college or university as indicated in Eligibility Option #1 above; or meet the eligibility criteria for FNGLA certification if seeking designation as an FNGLA Certified professional as indicated in Eligibility Option #2 above.

The Scholarship Applicant Certifies That:

All of the information submitted for the Big Bend Chapter-FNGLA scholarship is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by my school or FNGLA, I agree to provide proof of the information I have given on this application. I realize that if I fail to comply I will not be considered for the scholarship. If I fail, withdraw, drop the course, or fail to become FNGLA certified, I agree to repay the cost of the course and/or certification exam to the committee within 60 days from the ending date of the course or certification approval period.

Recipients are encouraged to join the Big Bend Chapter-FNGLA if they are not already members. Award recipients will be required to attend one chapter meeting or event after the award is presented.

Additional Notes:

The administration, interpretation, and application of this program will be determined solely by the Scholarship Committee of the Big Bend Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association. The application is valid only after each part is completed, the essay is attached, and the application is signed and dated.

The completed application package must be returned to:

FNGLA Big Bend Chapter Scholarship Committee

Attn: Paul Brock

Tallahassee Nurseries

2911 Thomasville Rd.

Tallahassee, FL 32308