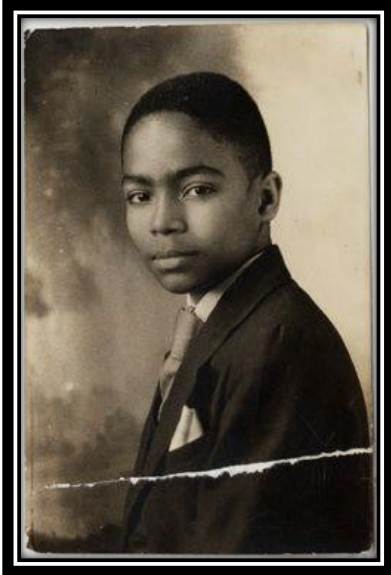


# The Virginia Black History Month Association

## James Farmer Scholarship

**The 2021 Black History Month National Theme:**  
"The Black Family"



*Dr. James L. Farmer Jr. in his youth*

**What:** The Virginia Black History Month Association James Farmer Scholarship.

**When:** The scholarship application deadline is Monday, February 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** The Virginia Black History Month Gala on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at the Salamander Resort & Spa, 500 N. Pendleton St, Middleburg, Virginia 20117.

**Who:** All African-American High School students enrolled in any Spotsylvania County, City of Fredericksburg, Caroline County, or Westmoreland County Virginia High School with plans to pursue a higher education.

**Why:** To honor the legacy of renowned Civil Rights Leader Dr. James L. Farmer Jr.

**The Monetary Awards**  
First Place Award: \$1,000  
Second Place Award: \$500  
Third Place Award: \$250

### The Winners Will Receive:

- A monetary award from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- One complimentary (Virtual) ticket to the Virginia Black History Month (Virtual) Gala.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner receives a large poster-size check with his/her name and \$1,000 dollars written on the check.
- A complimentary gift from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

## The VaBHMA James Farmer Scholarship Application

### **Applicant's Information**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Contact E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Applicant's School Verification Information** (Contact School Counselor)

7. High School: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grade (as of fall 2020): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grade Point Average (as of fall 2020): \_\_\_\_\_
  - School Activities:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Applicant's Plans After High School: (*check one*) 4 yr. college:  2 yr. college:
  - School Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
  - School Counselor's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant's Community and Civic Activities**

1. Civic Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Civic Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Civic Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Civic Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Leadership Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Leadership Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Leadership Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Leadership Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Sports Activity 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Sports Activity 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Sports Activity 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Sports Activity 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

• Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Music Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Active: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Rules

1. All African-American High School students enrolled in any Spotsylvania County, City of Fredericksburg, Caroline County or Westmoreland County Virginia High School with plans to pursue higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends at 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 15, 2021**.
3. Entries should be limited to two pages plus the application form and cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be signed by the student with school counselors and civic representative(s) contact info.
5. The entry must be submitted on time. (No late entries will be accepted)
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.

**How to Enter:** In 500 words or less, write your response to the questions below:

**Essay:** This year's Black History Month Theme is the Black Family. According to the Association for The Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), "*The black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time*<sup>1</sup>."

President Joe Biden has appointed you to a senior position within his cabinet. He has asked you for recommendations to help support his agenda for empowering the black families in this country. What are some of the greatest challenges facing the black families today? What do you tell him and why? What should be his top three priorities and why?

7. **Judging Criteria & Rules:** The winners will be selected by a neutral judging panel and will be rated in five areas:

- a. **Criteria**

- (1) Currently enrolled as an African-American Senior in any **Spotsylvania County, City of Fredericksburg, Caroline County or Westmoreland County Virginia High School**.
- (2) Good academic standing
- (3) Participation in the local community through civic programs and volunteerism
- (4) Plans to attend college after graduation from high school
- (5) Quality of essay

- b. **Rules:** The judging will take place under the supervision of **Dr. Sherry Springs**, Human Systems Engineer for the Department of the Navy. She will be joined by other community leaders to determine the winner of the scholarship.

- (1) Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges.
- (2) All decisions are final.
- (3) The winner will be notified by phone call by Monday, February 22, 2021.

8. Send a cover sheet with your entry and include the following information: Title of the entry, name, home address, applicant phone number, parent name, and cell phone number.
9. **Note:** Mail all entries to: The Virginia Black History Month Association James Farmer Scholarship, P.O. Box 41924, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021.
10. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented (online) during our Annual Black History Month (Virtual) Gala on Saturday, February 27, 2021. We would like for the winning contestant to be present (online) at the (Virtual) Gala. The winner will be given a free complimentary access to attend the Virtual Gala. The cost for additional connections online is \$25 to \$45 dollars. Visit our website at [www.vabhma.com](http://www.vabhma.com) for more details.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference: <https://asalh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2021Theme.pdf>

**The Virginia Black History Month Association  
James Farmer Scholarship Rubric**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
<b>Completed Application</b>	Application must be completed in full to be considered.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date</b>	Must be postmarked before 5:00pm February 15, 2021	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Essay Submitted with Application</b>	Received essay and application	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>The Word Count Limitation</b>	500 words or less	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Clearly Address the Essay Topics (Max 25 points)</b>	President Joe Biden has appointed you to a senior position within his cabinet. He has asked you for recommendations to help support his agenda for empowering the black families in this country. What are some of the greatest challenges facing the black families today? What do you tell him and why? What should be his top three priorities and why?	<b><u>Essay Topic Questions</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answered All Questions – 25 points</li> <li>• Answered Most Questions – 15 points</li> <li>• Answered Half the Questions – 5 points</li> <li>• Vaguely answered – 5 points</li> </ul>
<b>Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 25 points)</b>	Will accept the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Application w/signatures</li> <li>• Official Sealed High School Transcripts</li> <li>• Official Report Card</li> <li>• Signed Letter from the School</li> </ul>	<b><u>Grade Point Average</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.0 GPA – 25 points</li> <li>• 3.5 GPA – 20 points</li> <li>• 3.0 GPA – 15 points</li> <li>• 2.5 GPA – 10 points</li> </ul>
<b>Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 25 points)</b>	Spelling and Proper Grammar	<b><u>Spelling and Grammar Errors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four or Less Errors – 25 points</li> <li>• Between 5 – 7 errors – 20 points</li> <li>• Between 8 – 10 errors – 15 points</li> <li>• Between 11– 13 errors – 10 points</li> <li>• More than 14 errors – 5 points</li> </ul>
<b>Community or Civic Activities (Max 10 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Application</li> <li>• Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>• Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Boys &amp; Girls Club</li> </ul>	2.5 points for each activity
<b>Leadership Experience (Max 10 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Application</li> <li>• Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>• Example: Student Government, Class President, or Team Captain</li> </ul>	2.5 points for each activity
<b>Sports Activities (Max 5 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed Application</li> <li>• Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>• Example: Football, Soccer, or Swimming</li> </ul>	One point for each activity

*Disclaimer: Members of the VaBHMA Scholarship Selection Committee, may not participate in the selection process if their children, grandchildren, or any relatives plan to apply for any VaBHMA scholarships. They must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and have their names removed from the application.*