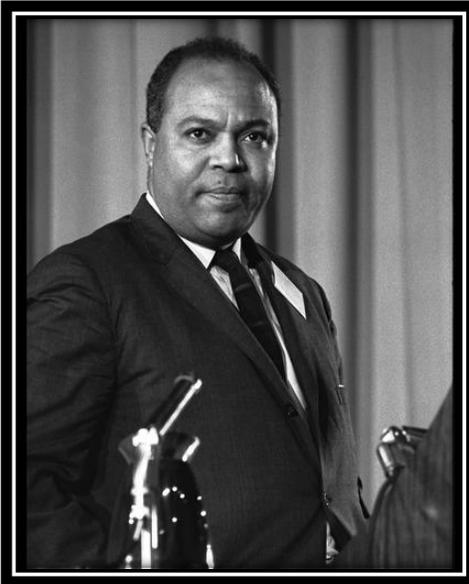


The Virginia Black History Month Association

James Farmer Scholarship

The 2024 Black History Month National Theme:
"African Americans and the Arts"



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

When: The scholarship application deadline is **Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: The **24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park Hotel**, 3111 Fairview Park Dr, Falls Church, VA 22042.

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:

- Monetary gifts from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners are announced during the Gala. All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- The 1st place winner will receive a large poster-size check with their name and winning amount.
- All winners will receive a complimentary family portrait from our professional photographer at the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- All winners will receive 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 2023): _____
 - Grade Point Average (as of fall 2023): _____
 - 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 and 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 12, 2024**.
3. Entries should be limited to two typed 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. Also include with your name, home address, phone number, parent name, and cell phone number.

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

Essay: African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and Black American lived experiences. In the fields of **visual and performing arts**, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary, and other forms of cultural expression, the African-American influence has been paramount. African-American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment. (ASALH, 2023).

Consider the following scenario: You are a famous filmmaker and playwright. Your staff has just completed their market research for your next two movies and determined they should be based on books or novels written by African-American authors. **Question(s):** Which two African American authors past or present will you select and why? Which two books or novels will you choose and why? Which present-day actor or actress will you choose to play the leading roles in each movie and why? Which of the two movies do you think will be the most successful 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 no later than Monday, February 19, 2024.

8. **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 12, 2024.
9. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during **the 24th Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 24, 2024 (Please arrive by 5:15pm)**. We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. Each winner and one of their parents will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend. Additional tickets are available for purchase.

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

Description	Criteria	Score
Completed Application	Application must be completed in full to be considered.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date	Must be postmarked before 5:00pm February 12, 2024.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Essay Submitted with Application	Received essay and application	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
The Word Count and Spacing	500 words or less and double spaced	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Clearly Address the Essay Topics (Max 25 points)	Question(s): Which two African American authors past or present will you select and why? Which two books or novels will you choose and why? Which present-day actor or actress will you choose to play the leading roles in each movie and why? Which of the two movies do you think will be the most successful and why?	Essay Topic Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answered All Questions – 25 points • Answered Most Questions – 15 points • Answered Half the Questions – 5 points • Vaguely answered – 5 points
Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 25 points)	Will accept the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed application w/signatures • Official sealed high school transcripts • Official report card • Signed letter from the school 	Grade Point Average <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.0 GPA – 25 points • 3.5 GPA – 20 points • 3.0 GPA – 15 points • 2.5 GPA – 10 points
Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 25 points)	Spelling and Proper Grammar	Spelling and Grammar Errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or Less Errors – 25 points • Between 5 – 7 errors – 20 points • Between 8 – 10 errors – 15 points • Between 11– 13 errors – 10 points • More than 14 errors – 5 points
Community or Civic Activities (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Boys & Girls Club 	2.5 points for each activity
Leadership Experience (Max 10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Student Government, Class President, or Team Captain 	2.5 points for each activity
Sports Activities (Max 5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed Application • Signed Letter from Organization • Example: Football, Soccer, or Swimming 	1 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.