



The Virginia Black History Month Association

Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence

The 2025 Black History Month National Theme:
"African Americans and Labor"



Ms. Audrey Jones

What: The Virginia Black History Month Association **Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence**

When: The scholarship application deadline is **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Where: The **25th Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel** in Arlington, Virginia

Who: All African-American High School students enrolled in any **Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools** or **Fredericksburg City Public Schools** in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.

Why: To honor the legacy of educator and community leader Ms. Audrey Jones.

The Monetary Award
\$500.00

The Winner Will Receive:

- A monetary award from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Two complimentary tickets to the 25th Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- A large poster-size check with his/her name and \$500 dollars written on the check.
- A complimentary family portrait with a professional photographer at the Gala.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence Application

Applicant's Information

1. Applicant's Name: _____
2. Applicant's Home Address: _____
3. Applicant's Home Phone Number: (____) _____
4. Applicant's Contact E-mail Address: _____
5. Applicant's Signature & Date: _____
6. Parent's Cell Phone Number: (____) _____

Applicant's School Verification Information (Completed by School Counselor)

7. Applicant's High School: _____
 - Applicant's Grade (as of fall of 2024): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2024): _____
 - Applicant's 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: _____
 - School Counselor's Signature: _____
 - Date: _____

Applicant's Community and Civic Activities

1. Civic Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
2. Civic Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
3. Civic Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
4. Civic Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
5. Leadership Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
6. Leadership Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
7. Leadership Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
8. Leadership Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
9. Sports Activity 1: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
10. Sports Activity 2: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
11. Sports Activity 3: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
12. Sports Activity 4: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____
13. Music Activity: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____

The Rules

1. This scholarship is open to All African-American High School students enrolled in any Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools or Fredericksburg City Public Schools in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends on **Monday, February 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**
3. Entries should be limited to two pages plus the application form and cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be signed by the student, school counselor and civic representative(s).
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: The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans, and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. (ASALH, 2024).

Consider the following scenario: You are a senior in high school about to graduate with plans to attend college. As part of your college application, you are required to submit letters of recommendation from various community leaders. One community leader is the principal of your local middle school, who served as a significant professional mentor during your attendance at this middle school. The principal will provide you with a letter of recommendation if you agree to be the commencement speaker during their middle school graduation ceremony. **Question(s):** What do you say to the students in your remarks when writing your speech, using your own personal story as an example? What do you tell them to encourage them to persevere? What can they do now to prepare for college and their professional careers?

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

a. **Criteria**

- (1) All African-American High School students enrolled in any Fairfax County Public Schools, Alexandria City Public High Schools, Spotsylvania County Public Schools or Fredericksburg City Public Schools in Virginia with plans to pursue higher education.
- (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 17, 2025.

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: Scan and Email** entries to: President@vabhma.com **or mail entries** to: The Virginia Black History Month James Farmer Scholarship, PO Box 41924, FREDERICKSBURG VA 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00pm on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025**.
10. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during **the 25th Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 22, 2025 (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 Audrey Jones Scholarship of Excellence 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, 2025	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 Limitation	500 words or less	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
Clearly Address the Essay Topic (Max 20 points)	Question(s): What do you say to the students in your remarks when writing your speech, using your own personal story as an example? What do you tell them to encourage them to persevere? What can they do now to prepare for college and their professional careers?	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 20 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 20 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 	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.