

Forest Management Scholarships – Next Steps for Interested Students

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is **Leroy Clemons**, Executive Director of the **Neshoba Youth Coalition (NYC)**—a nationally recognized youth development organization based in Philadelphia, Mississippi. For over 15 years, NYC has equipped young people with leadership skills, educational opportunities, and pathways to meaningful careers.

Today, I am excited to share our newest initiative: the **Forest Management Scholarship Opportunity** in partnership with the **Dick Molpus Foundation** and **Mississippi State University (MSU)**. This program is designed especially for African American, Native American, Hispanic, and first-generation students who are ready to step into high-demand, high-impact careers.

This work is deeply personal. I have dedicated decades to helping young people not only reach college but thrive in careers that bring stability, purpose, and generational impact. With this scholarship, we are building a pipeline of diverse leaders ready to shape the future of forestry and natural resource management in Mississippi and beyond.

What is Forest Management?

When people hear the term ***Forest Management***, many think it's only about walking through the woods, studying trees, or tracking wild animals. But the truth is—Forest Management is about business, leadership, and strategy.

- **It's About Management:** Forest Managers make big decisions—like how land is used, when to harvest timber, how to handle multi-million-dollar budgets, and how to protect resources for the future.
- **It's About Leadership:** They work with companies, government agencies, and communities, just like CEOs, to manage people, projects, and resources.
- **It's About Opportunity:** This field opens doors to high-paying careers in business, government, conservation, and even entrepreneurship.

Why It Matters for You

For students who may be unaware of the opportunities, Forest Management is a chance to:

- Break into a field where few people look like them.
- Gain skills in finance, management, and leadership that transfer to any industry.
- Build wealth and create a legacy for your family and community.

Bottom Line: Forest Management isn't just about trees—it's about managing money, people, and opportunities. It's a career that puts you in charge, and it's a space where your voice and vision are needed.

"Forest Management: It's about leadership, finance, strategy, and opportunity. It's where business meets the environment, where you are in charge to manage the forest and its resources."

Why Forest Management?

Real Jobs. Real Impact. Real Opportunity.

- **Real Jobs:** Forestry is one of Mississippi's largest industries, offering excellent salaries, job security, and leadership roles in areas like forest management, environmental science, and timber production.
- **Real Impact:** Forest management is about more than trees—it's about protecting the environment, strengthening local economies, and ensuring resources for future generations.
- **Real Opportunity:** With tuition support, mentorship, and career pathways, this scholarship provides access to a growing field where minorities and first-generation students are needed and valued.

What This Scholarship Offers

- Tuition assistance for students pursuing a Forest Management degree at MSU
- 1:1 mentorship, study groups, and academic advising
- Career exploration and networking with forestry professionals
- Guidance through admissions, FAFSA, and enrollment steps
- A supportive cohort community with NYC and peer scholars
- Field experience through site visits, internships, and hands-on learning
- Career launch support with resume help, mock interviews, and employer connections

Who Should Apply

- Rising juniors, seniors, and recent graduates
- Students who enjoy problem-solving, science, and stewardship of natural resources
- Young people looking for well-paid careers with strong job placement and leadership potential

In Short

This is more than a scholarship—it is a bridge between underserved students and sustainable careers. By combining financial support, mentorship, and career pathways, the Forest Management Scholarship empowers young leaders to create lasting impact for themselves, their families, and their communities.

We look forward to walking with you on this journey toward success.

How to move forward (3 quick steps)

1. Complete the Forest Management Scholarship Application:

You'll be asked for basic info and your **ACT score (if available)**. If you haven't tested yet, you can still apply.

2. Review the Info Packet:

3. Email for an Info Session/Q&A:

Date/Time for personal interview:

We'll cover eligibility, selection criteria, timelines, and tips for a strong application.

4. A parent/guardian (encouraged to be present)

Key dates

- Interest Form priority deadline: **October 31, 2025**
- Scholarship application opens: **September 1, 2025**
- Admissions/FAFSA guidance workshop: **TBA**

FAQs

- *Do I need forestry experience?* No—curiosity and commitment matter most.
- *Can I apply if I'm undecided?* Yes—exploration is part of this pathway.
- *What if my ACT isn't where I want it?* Still complete the form; we'll share prep resources and retest options.

If you have any questions, reply to this email or contact me directly at **601-504-3980** or **cleroymmei@gmail.com**. We're excited to walk alongside your family—from first questions to first day on campus.

Warmly,

Leroy Clemons

Executive Director, Neshoba Youth Coalition

601-504-3980 • cleroymmei@gmail.com

Putting People First—Pathways to College & Careers

P.S. If you know another student who might be a great fit, please share this message.

Neshoba Youth Coalition & Dick Molpus Foundation Forest Management Scholarship Application – Registration Form

SECTION 1: APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Full Legal Name: _____
- Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
- Age: _____
- Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other: _____
- Race/Ethnicity: ☐ African American ☐ Native American ☐ Hispanic/Latino ☐ Other: _____
- Are you a first-generation college student? ☐ Yes ☐ No

SECTION 2: CONTACT INFORMATION

- Home Address: _____

- City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
- Primary Phone Number: _____
- Email Address: _____

SECTION 3: EDUCATION BACKGROUND

- High School Name: _____
- Current Grade Level: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ Graduate (Year: _____)
- GPA: _____
- ACT Score: _____
- Expected Graduation Date: _____
- List any academic honors, awards, or achievements:

SECTION 4: INTEREST IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

- How did you learn about the Forest Management Scholarship?
☐ School Presentation ☐ NYC Program ☐ Social Media ☐ Other: _____
 - Why are you interested in pursuing a degree in Forest Management?
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SECTION 5: AGREEMENT & SIGNATURES

I certify that all the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false information may result in disqualification from the scholarship selection process.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18): _____ **Date:** _____

Return completed applications to:

Neshoba Youth Coalition

Attn: Forest Management Scholarship Program

414 Ivy Street

Philadelphia, MS 39350 or Email to:

Email: cleroymmei@gmail.com | Phone: (601) 504-3980