



APPLICATION FOR THE

NEIL and NORMA SPRAGUE NICHOLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship: for students planning to enroll full-time at an accredited university, vocational or technical institution of post-secondary education, specifically in the field of Forestry, Natural Resources, Environment, or related Agricultural field, biology, or botany, etc.

- Up to 2 scholarships will be awarded annually
- Past recipients could apply to be in the selection process with new applicants provided they have donated time with the Weldon Springs Foundation (WSF) at Weldon Springs State Park or other similar group/facility. If so, they will have priority in the selection process. This is not required for new applicants.
- Award Amount: \$1,500.00 (One Time Payment)

Application Deadline: Tuesday April 6, 2027.

The Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship was established to honor their life and legacy by supporting the next generation of students who are pursuing a career in agriculture production and land conservation. This scholarship provides practical financial assistance to hardworking students pursuing degrees in agriculture, forestry, biology, botany, and land conservation. By investing in these fields, the fund seeks to empower the next generation of farmers and conservationists who understand the value of honest labor, the importance of sustainable cultivation, and responsibility in protecting our working landscapes for future generations.

Norma and Neil Nichols were members of the Weldon Springs Foundation. Norma was a school teacher, and Neil was a farmer and Boy Scout Leader.

Indicate if you are applying for a first-time Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship OR for a one-time renewal of your scholarship.

I am applying for the _____ Scholarship

For renewals, submit proof of community service to WSF or similar group/facility.

Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship

A Clinton High School graduate may apply for the Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship. Applicants are evaluated by completing an application, and submitting an essay to the scholarship committee. A complete application includes:

- **General information Document-** See attached form.
- **Applicant Essay-** See attached form.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must meet the following requirements:
 - Must be currently enrolled or accepted as a full-time student at an accredited two-year or four-year college or university
 - Must be pursuing a major directly related to agriculture, forestry, agronomy, biology, botany or practical land conservation
 - Academic standing – must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 Scale)
 - Core Values – A clear intent to pursue a professional career focused on agricultural or forestry management, hands-on experience working the land (such as farming , timber management, 4-H, or FFA involvement) and a strong work ethic.
- **Personal Resume-** Please list your community and church activities, school extra-curricular, interests and hobbies, employment history and any honors/awards you have received while in high school
- **High School Transcript(s)-** Complete, except for last semester
- **College Transcript(s)-** for any college courses completed while in high school or for renewals
- **Two letters of recommendation** - Request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district. Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.** (Reference letters are not required for those applying for renewal – however a letter signed by WSF (or similar group/facility) approving your service is required.)

- **Be sure to include all of the above or the application will be denied.**

Completed applications are to be returned in a sealed envelope to the high school guidance office by the application deadline noted on the application packet cover page. The outside of the envelope must be marked with the student's name and CCEF- Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship.

Those students selected to receive a scholarship will receive further instructions outlining the eligibility requirements for disbursement of the scholarship award.

The number of scholarships awarded will be two for first-time applicants and/or two for applicants who are renewing (total of 2). Scholarship decisions are made by the scholarship committee which is comprised of district faculty members, CCEF board members, Nichols family members, and/or community members. An interview is not required. The Clinton Community Educational Foundation has the final decision on all scholarship awards.

Questions: Contact the CCEF Scholarship Committee by email at info@ccef15.org.

General Information Document

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

H. S. Grade Point Average: _____ SAT/ACT Composite Score: _____

POST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

School/Program attendance plans, include school/institute name and program of study:

COLLEGE STANDING (for renewals) – list GPA and continuing program

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

I certify that I am currently in my last academic year and graduating from Clinton Community High School. All information provided on this application is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Neil and Norma Sprague Nichols Scholarship

Applicant Essay

In an essay of approximately 500 words, describe the life experiences and/or people that have most influenced your career decision. How do you envision those influences impacting your future?

Please double space and use a legible font 12 pt. or larger. Sign and date below and attach the essay to the back of this form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

In your letter of recommendation, the writers should mention how long and under what circumstances they have known you. They should comment on the applicant's potential. Please instruct the writers to submit the letter in a sealed envelope. Include the two letters of recommendation with the rest of the application packet. Remember, request and submit two (2) letters of recommendation, only one of which may be provided by a current or recent teacher or school employee, and **one provided by a contact outside of the school district** (a family friend, church leader, coach of non-school related activity, previous employer, etc.). **Do not use relatives or CCEF board members.**

Reference Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applications are due Tuesday March 31, 2026.