



The Virginia Black History Month Association

James Farmer Scholarship

The 2020 Black History Month National Theme:
"African Americans and the Vote"



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

When: The scholarship application deadline is Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: The Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala on Saturday, 29 February 2020 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22311.

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: \$1000

Second Place Award: \$500

Third Place Award: \$250

The Winners Will Receive:

- Monetary awards from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Each of the three top winners will receive two complimentary tickets to the Virginia Black History Month Gala where the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced.
- The first place winner will receive a large poster-size check with his/her name and \$1,000 dollars written on the check.
- Complimentary gift from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- Complimentary family portrait with a professional photographer at the Gala.
- A Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.

The VaBHMA James Farmer Scholarship 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 2019): _____
 - Applicant's Grade Point Average (as of fall of 2019): _____
 - 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. Sports Activity 5: _____ Dates Active: _____
 - Representative Signature & Date: _____

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 a higher education.
2. The scholarship application deadline ends at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2020.
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 following question(s):

Essay: The year 2020 marks the centennial of the **Nineteenth Amendment** and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the **Fifteenth Amendment** (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. Discuss the challenges that African Americans still face today concerning voting rights. In response to these challenges the country passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Did it work? If not, what should be the country's next step?

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 **Ms. Stacey Burnard**, VaBHMA Scholarship Coordinator, **Mr. Xavier Richardson**, Executive Vice President, Mary Washington Healthcare; **Mr. Sylvester Rainey**, Government Civilian & Military Veteran; **Ms. Lucretia Starnes**, Doctoral Candidate and Educator; **Dr. Sherry Springs**, Human Systems Engineer and **Dr. Vernita Elliott**, Department Chair for Social Work & Sociology at Virginia Union University.

- (1) Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges.
- (2) All decisions are final.
- (3) Potential winners will be notified by phone call by Monday, February 10, 2020.

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 3, 2020.
10. The Gala Details: Awards will be presented during our Annual Black History Month Gala on **Saturday, February 29, 2020 (Please arrive by 5:15 p.m.). We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. In addition, the winners and one of their parents will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend the Gala. The cost of adult tickets for additional attendees is Adults: \$90.00, Students: \$60 and Children: (under 12 yrs. old) \$35.00 (Note: Children under 5 yrs. old are free)**

The Virginia Black History Month Association James Farmer Scholarship Rubric		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Score</i>
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 posted marked before 5:00pm 3 February 2020	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 Topics (Max 25 points)	Discuss the challenges that African Americans still face today concerning voting rights. In response to these challenges the country passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Did it work? If not, what should be the country's next step?	<u>Essay Topic Questions</u> <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 	<u>Grade Point Average</u> <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	<u>Spelling and Grammar Errors</u> <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 Organizations 	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 plans to apply for any VaBHMA scholarships. They must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and have their name removed from the application.