



# The Virginia Black History Month Association

## James Farmer Scholarship

**The 2023 Black History Month National Theme:**  
"Black Resistance"



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

**When:** The scholarship application deadline is **Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Where:** The **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 25, 2023** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA 22202.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners are announced during the Gala. All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 2022): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grade Point Average (as of fall 2022): \_\_\_\_\_
  - 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 13, 2023**.
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:** This year's Black History Month Theme is "**Black Resistance.**" From the 1950s and through the 1970s in the United States, [Black Resistance] was defined by actions such as sit-ins, boycotts, walk outs, strikes by Black people and white allies in the fight for justice against discrimination in all sectors of society from employment to education to housing. (ASALH, 2022)

**Consider the following scenario:** Three high-profile black millionaires have collaborated and decided to leave in their last will and testimony funds for a Private Foundation with a combined total revenue of \$1 Billion dollars. These funds will be used to create better opportunities for African Americans in Virginia. You have been appointed as President of the Foundation. Based on the by-laws of the Foundation there are three areas where you can improve upon the lives of African Americans; (1) create a separate corporation which provides better career opportunities, (2) build a new Historically Black College or University (HBCU) which provides more educational opportunities, (3) build a series of new housing communities to increase homeownership. You can only pursue one effort. **Question(s):** Which effort do you finance? Which effort will have the greatest impact on the African American community? Which effort provides the greatest resistance to unfair disadvantages towards African Americans? **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 20, 2023.

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 13, 2023.

9. **The Gala Details:** Awards will be presented during **the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala on Saturday, February 25, 2023 (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**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Completed Application</b>	Application must be completed in full to be considered.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Application delivered <u>on time</u> before the cutoff date</b>	Must be postmarked before 5:00pm February 13, 2023.	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Essay Submitted with Application</b>	Received essay and application	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>The Word Count and Spacing</b>	500 words or less and double spaced	Required before application can be considered. No point value assigned.
<b>Clearly Address the Essay Topics (Max 25 points)</b>	Which effort do you finance? Which effort will have the greatest impact on the African American community? Which effort provides the greatest resistance to unfair disadvantages towards African Americans? Why?	<b>Essay Topic Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answered All Questions – 25 points</li> <li>Answered Most Questions – 15 points</li> <li>Answered Half the Questions – 5 points</li> <li>Vaguely answered – 5 points</li> </ul>
<b>Grade Point Average (GPA) Report Card/Transcripts (Max 25 points)</b>	Will accept the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed application w/signatures</li> <li>Official sealed high school transcripts</li> <li>Official report card</li> <li>Signed letter from the school</li> </ul>	<b>Grade Point Average</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.0 GPA – 25 points</li> <li>3.5 GPA – 20 points</li> <li>3.0 GPA – 15 points</li> <li>2.5 GPA – 10 points</li> </ul>
<b>Spelling and Proper Grammar (Max 25 points)</b>	Spelling and Proper Grammar	<b>Spelling and Grammar Errors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four or Less Errors – 25 points</li> <li>Between 5 – 7 errors – 20 points</li> <li>Between 8 – 10 errors – 15 points</li> <li>Between 11– 13 errors – 10 points</li> <li>More than 14 errors – 5 points</li> </ul>
<b>Community or Civic Activities (Max 10 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Application</li> <li>Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>Example: Hospitals, Scouting, or Boys &amp; Girls Club</li> </ul>	2.5 points for each activity
<b>Leadership Experience (Max 10 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Application</li> <li>Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>Example: Student Government, Class President, or Team Captain</li> </ul>	2.5 points for each activity
<b>Sports Activities (Max 5 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed Application</li> <li>Signed Letter from Organization</li> <li>Example: Football, Soccer, or Swimming</li> </ul>	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.*