



The Lebanon Valley Conservancy History & Mission

To promote the conservation and preservation of the unique cultural, historical and natural resources of our region, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Formed in 2000 by a group of dedicated individuals representing various conservation organizations and groups to actively protect natural habitats, historic resources and farmland in Lebanon County. The common vision is to create an affiliation whose mission is to promote the conservation of natural resources, open spaces and agricultural lands through public awareness, education and scientific research. In cooperation with neighboring conservancies and trusts as well as local and state governments, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy seeks to preserve our area's unique qualities for the benefit of all.

The Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1, Section 27 guarantees:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment."

Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Education of the public is included in the mission of the Lebanon Valley Conservancy. To that end, we offer a \$2500 scholarship to a graduating high school student who is a resident of the Lebanon Valley, or to a college student at Lebanon Valley College or Harrisburg Area Community College, who intends to obtain a degree in and pursue a career in conservation, ecology, natural resources/wildlife management, water resources and management, or the environmental sciences. The scholarship is in memory of Richard H. Light and Karen R. Light.

Scholarship in Memory of Richard H. Light and Karen R. Light

Karen and Richard Light truly illuminated our lives by their example and passion for the natural environment. Richard was a self-taught naturalist who enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the flora and fauna, particularly found in the Swatara State Park. He taught others through his slide shows, field trips, and WLBR's Talk Show. For many years Richard could be found checking his 60 bluebird boxes at Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority.

Karen R. Light was a beloved teacher, principal, and friend. In her quiet, unassuming way she also enjoyed sharing her love of the natural world with others. To Karen and her husband Richard H. Light, everything in the natural world was important and worthy of respect. Karen deeply felt that she needed to be an advocate for those little creatures that don't have a voice. From a Spotted Salamander to a Saw-whet Owl to a Yellow Lady Slipper, all were appreciated and studied. The Lights' home was tucked into the side of the mountain near Swatara State Park, putting all of nature on display. Richard would take long walks in the park and then take Karen to witness his discoveries. His advice to all when walking in the woods was to take two steps, and then stand five minutes to observe nature. Visit Swatara State Park, sit on their Memorial Benches by the AT Bridge and enjoy nature.

Richard and Karen Light were active members of Quittapahilla Audubon Society, Lancaster Bird Club, Entomology Club, Muhlenberg Botanical Society, Lancaster Herpetology Club, Monroe Valley Chapel, and Historic Preservation Trust, The Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Manada Conservancy, and Friends of Memorial Lake & Swatara State Park. They were loyal volunteers with the Ned Smith Center's saw-whet owl research project. Richard H. Light passed away in April 2016 and Karen R. (Geesey) Light passed away in April 2018. Their hearts and passions revolved around conservation and inspiring others to preserve this beautiful earth. To this end, the recipients of The Richard H. and Karen R. Light Memorial Scholarship are encouraged to carry on the mission of these true lovers of our Mother earth. May the recipients continue to enLIGHTen the world of conservation!



Lebanon Valley Conservancy Scholarship Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____ Email: _____

High School attending/attended: _____

College/Post Secondary plan: _____

Accepted? Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Name of Teacher or Professor: _____

A written statement by the teacher/professor recommending the student is to be submitted with the application.

List other scholarships, grants or loans and the year it was received:

List all school and community activities (class office, yearbook, school paper, athletics, clubs, awards, community service projects, etc.):

List any employment you have had during high school/college:

How did you hear about this scholarship?

Lebanon Valley Conservancy Scholarship Application Check List

Before mailing your application, check to make sure the following are complete and include this checklist in your application package.

Application may also be found at lebanonvalleyconservancy.org/scholarship/

_____ Completed Application Form. Use additional pages as necessary to give a full description of your activities and employment, or attach resume. Photos may be included and if available a photo of the applicant engaged in a project or volunteer work.

_____ Written Statement submitted by the teacher or professor recommending applicant.

_____ Include an Original Essay. Provide a paragraph for each of the following topics or questions.

1. Introduction of applicant.
2. What sparked your interest in the conservation and environmental field?
3. What career path have you researched and have interest in pursuing?
4. Describe how your contributions and education would positively impact the environment.
5. Reflect on the environmental legacy of Karen and Richard Light and consider how you will continue this environmental advocacy in your personal life, educational pursuits, and career.

Mail completed application by March 18, 2024 to:

Lebanon Valley Conservancy Attn: SCHOLARSHIP

770 Cumberland St. Suite A, Lebanon, PA 17042

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the eligibility requirements for this scholarship?

- a. The applicant needs to be a graduating high school student who is a resident of the Lebanon Valley or a college student at Lebanon Valley College or Harrisburg Area Community College.
- b. The scholarship applicant must plan to study within the chosen fields of conservation, ecology, natural resources/wildlife management, water resources and management, or environmental sciences.

2. What is the scholarship value?

The scholarship is \$2500.

3. When will I know if I am awarded this scholarship?

If your school has an awards ceremony, you will receive a certificate at that time. Additionally, your school counseling office will be notified before your graduation date or The Lebanon Valley Conservancy will notify you. A representative of the Conservancy will notify each applicant either by mail, email, or phone call whether they are selected or not for the award.

4. If I am awarded this scholarship, when will I receive the money?

The Lebanon Valley Conservancy will distribute the funds at an April Event or the May 2024 Board Meeting.

5. Are there any other requirements?

TLVC requests that within one year of receipt of the scholarship, the recipient sends a letter updating TLVC on any progress in your coursework or in your chosen field.

