

Beth Seibert Environmental Scholarship Program

Overview

The Beth Seibert Environmental Scholarship Fund was established in 2021 to honor her legacy as an important environmental steward of the Ottawa River. Beth Seibert served as the Director of the Ottawa River Coalition (ORC) from its' inception in 1993 until 2020. During those 27 years, she was instrumental in engaging the public and bringing various stakeholders together with the common goal of improving water quality in the Ottawa River. Her leadership and commitment is simply unparalleled and has not only contributed to improved water quality in the Ottawa River, but has also laid the foundation for future progress in the ecological health of this watershed. She has demonstrated that one person can make a big difference, but also that a collaborative community with a strong leader can make an even bigger difference.

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide merit-based financial assistance to current college students that are planning to pursue a career related to environmental stewardship (e.g. environmental science, environmental engineering, biological conservation, etc.). Successful applicants will demonstrate their ability, potential and commitment to an environmental career.

Awardees will be selected by the Seibert Scholarship Committee. Scholarships can range from \$500 to \$2500. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the recipients' universities through the Lima Community Foundation.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this scholarship:

- Currently enrolled in an accredited community college, college or university with sophomore status or above
- Currently reside, or attend school, in an Ohio county within the Maumee River watershed. The following Ohio counties are eligible: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, & Wyandot.
- Majoring in environmental science, environmental biology or a related field
- Accepted to their college or program (if applicable)
- Good academic standing (GPA: 3.0 or above)
- Submission of completed application form (see below)
- Submission of supporting materials, including three letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member) and official transcripts
- Intention to attend the annual ORC meeting to be recognized as a recipient

Submitting Applications

All applications and supporting material must be submitted to the Ottawa River Coalition by July 30, 2026. This includes the following:

- Completed application form
- Three letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member)
- Official transcripts

All materials should be emailed to: scholarship@allenswcd.com. In the subject line, indicate the following: "Last Name – Seibert Scholarship Application Materials." A submission button can also be found on the Ottawa River Coalition website (<https://www.thisismyriver.org/>).

Notification of Awards

Recipients will be notified by August 30, 2026 of their award and provided with the terms for securing the distribution of funds to their university.

Review of Applications

Applications submitted to scholarship@allenswcd.com or <https://www.thisismyriver.org> will be reviewed and ranked by the committee. The Seibert Scholarship Committee will have the final decision regarding scores and rankings.

Criteria for reviewing applications are as follows:

- Local residency and school location
- Educational profile, including college major and GPA
- Programs, activities, jobs and internships
- Honors and awards
- Research and professional experiences, including presentations or publications
- Career goals related to environmental science and scholarship deservedness
- Demonstrated leadership skills and ability to collaborate
- Demonstrated contributions to addressing environmental challenges
- Knowledge of local environmental issues and ability to problem solve
- Strength of letters of recommendation

Beth Seibert Environmental Scholarship Application Form

I, _____, understand that I am applying for the Beth Seibert Environmental Scholarship and affirm my desire to be considered. I understand that this application will only be available to qualified individuals during the review process. I affirm that this application is my own work or, where applicable, formally cited from other sources. I also affirm that the information contained here is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

- Signature: _____

Part I. Personal Profile

- Full name
- Phone
- Email
- Hometown
- Home address
- Current college or university
- College address

Part II. Educational Profile

- College major
- Year in school (sophomore, junior?)
- GPA
- Does your current program or major have an application procedure to be accepted?
- If you answered yes to the question above, have you been accepted?
- Beginning with the school you currently attend, please list all schools you have attended in the last three years, including summer or special courses. Include dates attended and your GPA for each.
- Have you previously received an award from this scholarship?
- If you answered yes to the question above, what year did you receive the award?
- How did you hear about this scholarship?

Part III. Activities, Employment, Research & Awards (during the past three years)

- List any programs and/or activities in which you have participated on campus or in your community (e.g. clubs, music, art, student government, community service, etc.). Include dates.
- List internships and jobs (including summer employment). Include the job, employer and dates of employment.
- List honors or awards received. Include the honor/award, granting entity and date received.
- List any research experiences. Include project titles, research mentors and dates involved.
- List any professional memberships and professional meetings attended. Include the names of the organizations and dates.
- List any professional presentations and publications.

Part IV. Essays (250 word limit for each)

- **Career Goals & Deservedness:** What are your professional aspirations and what environmental issues do you hope to address in your future career? Indicate how your educational plans and this scholarship will assist you in achieving these goals.
- **Leadership & Collaboration:** Describe one or more experiences in which you have made a difference on your campus or in your community. Indicate how these experiences demonstrate your leadership, interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate.
- **Contributions to the Environment:** Describe how any of your previous experiences (research or other) have made contributions to addressing an environmental challenge.
- **Local Environmental Issues:** What do you see as one of the most important environmental issues to address in northwest Ohio? Why? Include some possible, feasible solutions that could help address this issue. (Please appropriately reference any sources utilized in your answer).