

Steve Bass Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Educators

Background Information

Steve Bass was a leader and an important voice in Florida's environmental education community. He touched the lives of thousands through outdoor programs in Belle Glade, at the Jupiter Marine Science Center, Okeehetee Nature Center, and finally as the director of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton, Fla., where he worked for 22 years. He was a pivotal force in the success of the Florida Master Naturalist Program, as an early advocate of the Program's potential to unify Florida's environmental education organizations.

Steve taught one of the very first FMNP courses in 2001 and continued teaching FMNP courses into his retirement, as well as providing mentoring and guest lectures for FMNP colleagues as recently as 2017. The Environmental Interpretation course was inspired by Steve and includes many of his ideas. This scholarship was established to provide environmental educators in Florida the opportunity to participate in the Florida Master Naturalist Program.

- The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Steve Bass Memorial Scholarship is available to environmental educators who are currently employed by a public, private, or nonprofit organization whose purpose is to educate Florida's citizens and/or visitors about Florida's natural world.
- Scholarships awarded will cover the entire cost of one FMNP 24- or 40-hour course.
- Scholarships are awarded semi-annually; selections will be based on the applicant's statement of interest and a letter of recommendation from their organization supervisor. The number of scholarships awarded each year will be dependent on funding.

Who Can Apply:

Environmental educators who are **currently employed by a public, private, or nonprofit organization** whose purpose is to educate Florida's citizens and/or visitors about Florida's natural world. (Previous recipients must wait at least 1 year from receipt of scholarship to apply for a 2nd scholarship).

How to Apply:

Submit the following items by the application deadline to be considered:

- 1) a completed application form (found [here](#))
- 2) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the organization where they are employed

Applications must be submitted online through [this Qualtrics survey](#). Recommendation letters must be signed and dated; letters can be scanned and emailed to info@masternaturalist.org.

- [Scholarship Application](#)

Application Deadlines:

There are 2 award cycles; all application materials must be submitted by the deadline to be considered:

January 15: Complete applications received from July 16 - January 15 will be notified by February 1. Scholarships will be valid for course registration from March through August.

July 15: Complete applications received from January 16 – July 15 will be notified by August. Scholarships will be valid for course registration from September through February.

****Scholarship recipients will be notified by email by the FMNP Statewide Coordinator****

Award Expectations

- Awardees must register for the course of their choice within the 6-month scholarship window. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.
- Within 30 days of completion of their course, awardees are expected to submit a 200+ word story about their FMNP experience (what they learned and how they anticipate using the information in their environmental education career) to the FMNP Statewide Coordinator.
- Awardees are strongly encouraged to focus their FMNP course project on tools, materials, or applications that can be used by environmental education centers.
- The names of scholarship awardees will be published on the FMNP website.