



Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Kentucky Ornithological Society

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It honors the memory of Virginia “Ginny” and Dr. Wendell Kingsolver and their contributions to environmental and educational groups across Kentucky.

Both Kingsolvers served as president of KOS. The board chose to honor them by creating a scholarship to offer educational opportunities for teenage birders in Kentucky.

The options listed below provide a wide variety of opportunities for teens to take their birding skills to the next level, meet others with similar interests, and explore careers in birding and ornithology.

Each program has slightly different age restrictions and requirements, so applicants should carefully consider which program best fits their interests and make sure they meet the requirements before applying. All applicants must live in Kentucky. Scholarship funds will cover the cost of the program which typically covers lodging, meals, transportation to and from an airport, camp events and instructional sessions. Transportation is NOT included but may be applied for separately once a scholarship is awarded. Transportation cost should not keep any teen from applying.

To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, a student should fill out the application, write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she chose the program they chose, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. We will ask students who receive scholarships to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing.

Applications can be submitted year-round however grants will be subject to availability at the camps which in some years have been filled to capacity.

Completed applications should be mailed to Carol Besse, 1262 Willow Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204 or emailed to csbesse@bellsouth.net

Applications will be approved or rejected within two weeks to allow applicants to apply directly to the chosen program. Funds will be disbursed directly from KOS to the program sponsor.



Scholarship Opportunities

Please read the age range and other requirements carefully to be sure you qualify for your chosen program.

American Birding Association camps, Allenspark, Colorado and Lewes, Delaware

These camps are six nights each in early August. KOS can put applicants in touch with Kentucky teens who have attended both camps. Applications opened in mid-November and can fill fast. Read about the details and qualifications below.

<https://www.aba.org/camps/>

Camp TALON, St. Simons Island, Georgia

This camp is operated by the Georgia Wildlife Division. It runs for 5 nights in late May, early June. KOS can put applicants in touch with past attendees.

<https://georgiawildlife.com/CampTALON>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York

Cornell's Young Birders event focuses on teens who might be interested in a career in ornithology. Held at the famous lab, participants will be exposed to the wide variety of disciplines that support bird conservation. The program runs for 4 days in late June.

<https://ebird.org/about/young-birders-event>

Hog Island Audubon Camp for Teens

Hog Island Audubon offers 4 camps for teens, each 5 days long primarily in June. The location can be difficult to get to, but not impossible. Registration opens in mid-November and can fill quickly.

<https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/camp>

Beaverhill Lake, Alberta, CANADA

This Young Ornithologists Workshop has no tuition, so a Kingsolver scholarship will cover transportation to the camp. Admission is very competitive and a **valid passport is required.**

<https://beaverhillbirds.com/programs/young-ornithologist-workshop/>



**Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship
Application
Kentucky Ornithological Society**

Applicant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Address if different from applicant: _____

Name of applicant's school: _____

Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: _____

How old were you when you started birding? _____

Who taught you about birds? _____

How often do you go birding? _____

How many bird species have you seen in Kentucky? _____

Do you belong to a birding club or society? Yes No

If yes, which one? _____

Which Program are you applying for?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABA Camp Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornell Young Birders Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABA Camp Avocet | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Week, Hog Island Audubon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp TALON | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaverhill Lake, Canada |

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of
Parent/Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____