

V.S.S.F. Frequently Asked Questions (For P.E.O.'s)

[Return to Scholarships page](#)



What is V.S.S.F.?

V.S.S.F. is the Virginia State Scholarship Fund.

What is the minimum value of a scholarship provided by the V.S.S.F.?

The minimum value of a scholarship is \$1,500.

What are the seven Named Scholarships, and whose funds are included in the V.S.S.F. and administered through the P.E.O. Foundation?

The *Jeannette McDonald Scholarship* was established in 1992. It is awarded to the woman with the highest grade point average (GPA) of those selected for a V.S.S.F. Scholarship. This Named Scholarship is \$2,500.

The *Mary Pinkerton Memorial Scholarship* was established in 1995. It is awarded to the woman with the second highest GPA of those selected for a scholarship. This Named Scholarship is \$2,000.

The *Janice H. Bruner Scholarship* was established in 1996. It is awarded to the woman with the third highest GPA. This Named Scholarship is \$2,000.

The *Robert E. and Jean M. Stout Memorial Scholarship* was established in 1998, and is awarded to a woman accepted into an accredited health or medical program. This Named Scholarship is \$2,000, and can be awarded to an incoming freshman.

Lottie E. Driver – This scholarship was established in 2005. This award is given to upper-classman with priority to those studying in the field of education. These named scholarships are \$2,500.

The *Lib Carico and Betty Merritt Fund*, was established in 2015. Donations to this fund are available on a yearly basis for scholarships. These Named Scholarships are \$1,500. And can be awarded to incoming freshmen.

The *Sue and John Brilliant Scholarship Fund* was established in 2018. This Named Scholarship is \$1,500. And can be awarded to an incoming freshman.

Does the V.S.S.F. provide scholarships for Virginia residents attending schools out-of-state?

No, scholarships are awarded only to students domiciled in Virginia who will be attending an accredited Virginia school of higher education.

How are V.S.S.F. Scholarships funded?

Scholarships are funded by contributions from Virginia P.E.O. chapters and individuals. All of the V.S.S.F. contributions received are dispersed annually. Additionally, annual income from the Named Scholarship Funds is dispersed annually.

Can high school seniors be awarded a V.S.S.F. Scholarship?

A maximum of thirty percent of the V.S.S.F. Scholarship donations may be awarded to high school seniors.

How are the scholarship recipients selected?

The Scholarship Committee selects recipients based on the applicants' being well rounded in activities, having minimum GPA's of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale, having financial need, having solid life and career goals, and three current strong character references.

Recipients must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, domiciled in Virginia, and be high school graduates who will attend, as full time undergraduates, Virginia schools of higher education during the following school year. P.E.O.'s or relatives of a P.E.O. are given preference if all other factors are established equally.

Can a student receive a V.S.S.F. Scholarship more than once?

Yes, a recipient is encouraged to reapply to be considered for another scholarship, so long as she still meets the eligibility requirements. A young woman may receive a maximum of

two scholarships. This is not an automatic process; the student must apply for the scholarship again.

When are applications due?

V.S.S.F. applications must be postmarked by **February 15th** of each year.

What is the Designated Scholar Program?

P.E.O. Chapters who contribute at least \$500 to the V.S.S.F. and/or a Named Scholarship Fund will have the privilege of selecting a Designated Scholar from the scholarship recipients. The Designated Chapter will be sent her name and contact information and have the pleasure of communicating with her throughout the year. For more details log onto the Virginia State Chapter website (www.vapeo.org), go to V.S.S.F., and view "Designated Scholar Program F.A.Q.'s."

How can our chapter find qualified applicants?

Spread the word about our scholarships to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. Visit your local high school or college. Make an appointment with a guidance counselor or a career center specialist, and leave copies of the V.S.S.F./V.C.C.S.F. brochure and scholarship application. Leave your name and phone number and offer further assistance if needed.

***Please keep in mind while searching for applicants that seventy percent of scholarship funds are set aside for non-freshman students.

If you still have questions, you can contact us at vssf-vcssf@vapeo.org.