



15th
ANNUAL



Virginia Council on Women STEAM-H Essay Contest

About the Contest

The Virginia Council on Women (Council) will provide one merit-based and one need-based scholarship to female high school seniors in each of the five geographic regions across the Commonwealth through a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Healthcare (STEAM-H) essay contest. This year, merit-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay submitted, and the need-based scholarships will be awarded based on the quality of the essay and the individual's self-identified financial need. Award amounts may vary and are determined by the Council annually.

Merit Based

- Be a Virginia resident
- Be enrolled in a Virginia-based high school or high school equivalent (to include homeschool)
- Be a female high school senior
- Be planning to attend an institution of higher education to include but not limited to a community college, four-year college or university, trade or technical school, or certificate program
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA (4.0 Scale)

Need-Based

- Be a Virginia resident
- Be enrolled in a Virginia-based high school or high school equivalent (to include homeschool)
- Be a female high school senior
- Be planning to attend an institution of higher education to include but not limited to a community college, four-year college or university, trade or technical school, or certificate program
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA (4.0 Scale)

Contest Timeline

Contest Launches
October 2025

Contest Ends
January 30, 2026

**Scholarship
Recipients Notified**
February 2026

**Scholarship
Recipients Reception**
Spring 2026

Scholarships Dispersed
Summer 2026



Region 1: Eastern Virginia/Hampton Roads

Region 2: Southwest/Southside

Region 3: Richmond/Central Virginia

Region 4: Valley/Western Virginia

Region 5: Northern Virginia



For more information, visit: women.virginia.gov
or email: women@governor.virginia.gov