

# Virginia Council on Women STEM Essay Contest

## About the Contest

The Virginia Council on Women (Council) will provide one merit-based and one need-based scholarship to high school seniors in each of the five geographic regions across the Commonwealth through a STEM 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
- Be a high school senior female or identify as a female
- 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, online, and/or through certificate STEM oriented courses. Call for more details.
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA (4.0 Scale)

### Need-Based

- Be a Virginia resident
- Be enrolled in a Virginia-based high school
- Be a high school senior female or identify as a female
- 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, online, and/or through certificate STEM oriented courses. Call for more details.
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA (4.0 Scale)

## Contest Timeline

**Contest Launches**  
October 18, 2019

**Contest Ends**  
January 17, 2020

**Scholarship Award  
Recipients Notified**  
March 15, 2020

**Scholarship Award  
Recipients Reception**  
Spring 2020

**Scholarships Dispersed**  
July 2020

**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: [commonwealth.virginia.gov/advisory-boards/council-on-women](https://commonwealth.virginia.gov/advisory-boards/council-on-women)  
or email: [women@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:women@governor.virginia.gov)