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  
or email: women@governor.virginia.gov