**Virginia Association of Fairs**

**Youth Leadership Scholarship Contest**

**January 8, 2022**

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**Contest Day begins at 9:00am**

SEE DETAILS IN PACKET

**Contest Chair:** Kari Sponaugle, 4-H Extension Agent, Highland & Bath County [karis@vt.edu](mailto:karis@vt.edu) 540-468-2225

**VAF Board Member Representative:** Sarah “Essie” Berry

**Eligibility:** For youth ages 14-19 as of January 1, 2022 who are active participants in a VAF-member fair or festival. Youth can participate more than once as if they do not win first place. *(See general rules.)*

**Application Deadline:**  1st Friday of December (December 3, 2021)

Mail to: VCE-Highland Attn: Kari Sponaugle, P.O. Box 528, Monterey, VA 24465

(*Physical address for FedEx: 83 Highland Center Drive, Monterey, VA 24465*)

***No faxes or e-mails. Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.***

**Submit: Application, Résumé, Essay and Letter of Recommendation**

**Scholarship Awards:**

1st Place $ 2500.00

2nd place $ 2000.00

3rd place $ 1500.00

4th Place $ 1000.00

5th place $ 750.00

6th place $ 500.00

**Contest Components:**

Due in December:

1. Application, Résumé, Essay & Letter of Reference

On Contest Day:

1. Digital Symposium (PowerPoint)
2. Interview
3. Prepared Public Speech
4. Extemporaneous Public Speaking

**About Scholarship Awards:**

Awards are given in the form of scholarships and dispersed upon receipt of a bill showing the winner’s name and made payable to an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning. Awards can only be used toward the intended purpose of further education. No other uses of funds are allowed under these contest rules. The recipient has until their 23rd birthday to use the funds awarded in this contest. Funds not used by the deadline revert to the overall scholarship fund. Scholarship proceeds are non-transferable. Bills from a qualified institution must be submitted in a timely fashion to the VAF Treasurer. Please allow 60 days or more for processing.

**Contest Goals:**

The goals of the VAF Youth Leadership Scholarship Contest are to

* recognize superior leadership characteristics among junior members of the Association’s member fairs and festivals and overall fair industry.
* encourage and develop leadership and speaking skills among youth members so they will be able to better serve their local communities and fair/festival organizations.
* develop necessary skills for the workforce and future job placement.
* share, as well as receive, ideas and concepts that have proven successful or unsuccessful at local fair/festivals in Virginia.

**General Rules:**

1. Contestants must be age 14 to 19 as of January 1 of the contest year.
2. In order to compete, contestants must actively participate in their local VAF-member fair (youth board member, livestock exhibitor, contest/fair entry participant, fair volunteer, etc.). Application must be signed by a sponsoring fair official (board member, committee chair, etc.).
3. A **letter of reference** from a fair board or committee member must be submitted with the application, résumé, and essay. The letter should stress the applicant’s leadership abilities and contributions to the local VAF-member fair.
4. Contestants must be present in the designated room during the Virginia Association of Fairs Convention, by 9:00 a.m. on contest day to participate. Contestants should wear professional attire and conduct themselves accordingly during the entire contest period.
5. In case of a tie for any placement based on numerical scores, the judging panel will be informed and consulted to break the tie after the completion of the contest.
6. Contest results will be announced Saturday evening at the conclusion of the contest as well as at the VAF Gala. Finalists receive an award letter to keep until they request the award to be paid.
7. First through sixth place winners plus one parent per youth will receive a paid ticket for the VAF Gala Saturday night. Business professional or semi-formal attire is suggested. A Silent and Live Auction take place during the Gala to raise money for VAF Scholarships.
8. The first-place winner will be asked to write a bio for the Spring VAF newsletter. They may also be asked to present their Digital Symposium, prepared speech and/or extemporaneous speech to the following groups at some point during the 2020 fair season:
   1. Youth’s representing fair board
   2. VAF March or June board meeting (whichever is closer to youth’s locality).
   3. State Fair of VA board meeting (in person or by webinar)

**Due in December:**

**Résumé and Application:**

1. An official application and résumé must be submitted with the appropriate signatures by the deadline listed on the front page of the contest rules packet. Additional attached pages are acceptable.

**Letter of Reference:**

Ask a member/volunteer/director of your sponsoring fair or festival (non-relative) for a letter of recommendation emphasizing your fair participation, service, and leadership. Include with application.

**Essay:**

1. Each contestant must submit a typed essay addressing the topic below. Essays must accompany the application or the contestant will be disqualified. **Participant Name, Age and Fair/Festival** must be in the **top right corner** of the Essay for identification purposes.
2. Essays will be judged on grammar and spelling, organization, relevance, creativity and quality.

**The 2022 Essay Topic is: Fairs and Festivals, Back in Business!** How did COVID financially impact your fair and community and how is the local fair and festival board handling it? After consulting with your fair board, include your own ideas for how your fair or festival can close the gap financially and how you and others can support the board’s work.

**On Contest Day:**

**Interview:**

1. Each contestant will participate in an interview with at least one judge to answer questions about their résumé, application and involvement in their local fairs, community, and other organizations.
2. One copy of the resume will be submitted with application in December and a SECOND copy should come with the applicant on Contest Weekend.
3. Contestants are judged 50% on answers to at least three questions; 25% on poise, grammar, professional appearance; 25% on résumé and application neatness and completeness.

**Digital Symposium:**

1. Digital Symposium (PowerPoint) is open to the public and the FIRST part contest day. Parents and registered Conference attendees can view this segment.
2. Create a presentation on the given topic. A laptop and projector are provided. Any other equipment must be brought by the presenter. Provided laptop will have PowerPoint software.
3. Internet service is not available; do not use online programs (Google Presentation, Canva, etc.). Presentations should be saved on a USB drive and brought with you to save to the laptop.
4. Presenters should refrain from using additional software, sound, movie clips, etc. to minimize technological glitches.
5. Two-thirds of the score from Digital Symposium is decided by two (2) judges. The remaining one-third is the average of all contestant score sheets.
6. Scores will be weighted as follows:

Composition (organization, slide presentation, knowledge of subject) **40%**

Delivery (voice, diction, use of technology, speaker’s behavior) **45%**

Response to Questions **15%**

1. Only judges may ask questions during Digital Symposium.
2. Delivery time is no less than three (3) minutes 30 seconds to five (5) minutes. There is a 30-second grace period for delivery over five minutes. Points are deducted after the grace period or if the presentation is less than the minimum. Suggested presentation size is 20 slides or less.
3. Be creative; use photos, word art and appropriate graphics to deliver the topic.

**The 2022 Digital Symposium Topic is: 2022 – A theme for your Fair or Festival**

Each year the Virginia Association of Fairs chooses a theme for its convention. Convention planners use decorations and contests to showcase the theme as well as special guest speakers who may discuss theme-related topics. Pick a theme for your fair or festival or tell us what the 2022 theme of your event is. Tell judges and peers how your fair will display this theme - what types of decorations, speakers and contests will be incorporated in the schedule and scenery to enhance the fair or festival themed experience?

**Prepared Speech:**

1. Presenters will deliver a prepared speech with the following subject: leadership and its relevance to the fair and festival industry.
2. Each speech will be 4 to 6 minutes in length and scored 40% on composition, (organization of material and use of language), 45% on delivery (projection, fluency, and voice control), and 15% on responses to judge questions.
3. Each contestant will submit two printed copies of their speech at contest check-in.
   1. Speeches should be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced.
   2. Print one-sided only, and staple in the corner. Do not place in a folder.
4. The order of presentation will be randomly assigned. Notes are allowed, but excessive use may cause point deduction. No other materials or devices allowed.
5. A podium may or may not be available, dependent upon facility set-up.
6. Points are deducted if contestants are not within the 4 to 6-minute time limit.

**Extemporaneous Speech:**

1. Contestants have 30 minutes to prepare a 2 to 4-minute speech on an unreleased topic chosen by contest officials. Each contestant is given the same topic.
2. Presentation is scored using the same formula as the prepared speech.
3. Topics pertain to the fair industry and personal experiences. No research required.
4. Contestants are allowed to use notecards while speaking, but points are deducted for excessive use.
5. There is a 5-point penalty for each minute or part thereof that is exceeded or minimum not met.

**Virginia Association of Fairs**

**Youth Leadership Scholarship Application**

Due the 1st Friday in December. (December 3, 2021)

Participant Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Presently Attending: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Local Fair Represented: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(\*Note: Fair must be a member of Virginia Association of Fairs.)*

Your Local Newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Their Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*A press release may be shared with contestants’ local papers to explain the contest, youth competing and winner results.*

**ONE-TWO PAGE Résumé** should include:

1. Fair participation and service. Include responsibilities and dates (year).
2. Community Involvement: group name(s), years involved and brief description of participation.
3. Work Experience, paid or volunteer. Include job title, responsibilities, and dates of service.
4. Honors and/or Awards received.
5. Statement of plans for higher education / career goals.

Include **Essay, Letter of Reference & Résumé** with application page**.**

**Signatures:**

I certify that the applicant is an active member of our fair or festival and is eligible for this contest.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Fair/Festival Representative Title

I certify that information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my ability and is my own work. I have read and understand the rules for this scholarship contest.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Completed** applications due by 5:00 p.m. December 3, 2021. See pg. 1 for mailing info.

Participant’s Signature