



*Inspiring Responsible
Environmental Stewardship*

1760 Old Meadow Road
McLean, VA 22102

PHONE 703-748-7575
FAX 703-448-5752

www.newtonmarascofoundation.org

*PROGRAM PARTNER
Maryland State Department
of Education*

2007 Rachel Carson Scholar Program

The Newton Marasco Foundation (NMF) is a nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to inspire responsible environmental stewardship. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's birth, NMF has created the Rachel Carson Scholar Program to raise awareness of and honor Rachel Carson's work. Through her writings and work, Miss Carson alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides and launched our modern environmental movement.

WHAT IS A RACHEL CARSON SCHOLAR?

The goal of the Rachel Carson Scholar Program is to recognize and honor students with a strong academic background who are taking active roles in environmental stewardship in their community. What exactly is a Rachel Carson Scholar? A Rachel Carson Scholar is one who:

- Demonstrates interest in or knowledge of the natural world
- Has taken an active role in community-based environmental stewardship activities
- Has a strong academic record

NMF's 2007 Rachel Carson Scholar Program is open to Maryland high school students of junior and senior standing who are concerned about the environment and want to engage in activities and continue studies that will help to protect and improve their natural surroundings.

NMF encourages applicants whose interest in the environment is demonstrated in any discipline and who promote environmental issues through any vehicle, be it literary, scientific, artistic or any other mode. NMF would like to use this program to illuminate student achievement in environmental issues through any of the social sciences, natural sciences and fine arts.

Rachel Carson Scholars will be recognized and honored at an awards ceremony on May 24, 2007. In addition, monetary awards will be presented to those Rachel Carson Scholars of highest standing. First place recipient will receive a \$1,000 award. Second place recipient will receive a \$750 award and third place recipient will receive a \$500 award.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be distributed to Maryland high schools in November 2006. Applications are due no later than April 2, 2007. NMF will select its award recipients and notify all applicants by mid-April. Successful candidates will be invited to attend an awards ceremony and production of *A Sense of Wonder*, a play about Rachel Carson's life, on May 24, 2007 at the Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel, Maryland. In attendance will also be Maryland state government officials as well as notables from the Maryland environmental and education communities.

CONTACT AND APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

Applicants can submit their applications via email to: stephanie@newtonmarascofoundation.org, or mail or fax their hard copy application to the attention of Stephanie Cutts at:

Newton Marasco Foundation
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*Applications must be postmarked by **April 2, 2007** to be considered for the award. Submissions postmarked later than this date will not be eligible.*

WHO MAY APPLY

To apply for NMF's Rachel Carson Scholar Program, you must:

- Be a Maryland high school junior or a senior on track to graduate in the spring of their senior year
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 through the first semester of the 2006-07 school year
- Demonstrate an interest in environmental issues and a commitment to engage in activities to protect the environment
- Have participated in volunteer or community service activities that were environmental in nature
- Complete the application form in full and submit all required documentation on time

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Rachel Carson Scholar Committee will evaluate each application and propose a list of finalists to the NMF Executive Board for final decision-making and selection. Selection decisions are weighted by the following criteria:

- 40% on the essay response and statement of interest
- 35% on environmental volunteer or community service involvement
- 15% on scholastic performance
- 10% on letters of recommendation

Essays will be judged on the writing style and flow of the entire piece; the clarity and coherence of ideas; the display of thorough research of Rachel Carson's contributions; and thoughtful reaction to her work.

