



THE SAN JUAN PRESERVATION TRUST 2026 CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

DESCRIPTION

Award: Two awards of \$4,000 each

Application Deadline: Noon on May 8, 2026

The San Juan Preservation Trust is offering up to two \$4,000 scholarships (\$2,000 for each of the first two years of college for two students) to graduating high school seniors who are San Juan County residents and attend high school or have been home-schooled in the San Juan Islands.

The scholarships are intended to recognize and encourage a diverse mix of young members of our island communities who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment, effort, and imagination in addressing the issue of climate change, and who plan a course of collegiate study that equips them to amplify their climate-focused endeavors—whether through scientific inquiry, the arts, media, or other forms of active community engagement.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for applicants from a diverse group of graduating seniors who meet all the following criteria:

- Are residents of San Juan County
- Are not direct relatives of Preservation Trust board or staff members
- Attend high school or have been home-schooled in the San Juan Islands
- Plan to continue their education on a full-time basis at a community college, college, or university to which they have been admitted for the following academic year. (Or, if an applicant has been admitted and is planning a gap year, they should include a statement about how they plan to spend the 2026-27 academic year.)

- To receive the second half of the scholarship (\$2,000 awarded before the beginning of the second year of higher education), the student must submit proof of good standing at their chosen college or university in the form of a transcript or grade report from their freshman year and proof of matriculation in their second year of study.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Applications, including essays and other application components (as specified on the application form) are due by noon on May 8. Scholarship winners will be informed no later than May 18. Winners will be recognized at their respective high-school graduation award ceremonies, on our website and public communications, and a spotlight during our 2026 Summer Social on Orcas Island this July.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

By applying for an SJPT scholarship, the applicant certifies that the essay submitted is their original work, free from plagiarism or any third-party rights violations, and that they hold all necessary rights to the essay.

Applicants under 18 years of age agree to submit a waiver, signed by a parent or guardian, that gives the San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) permission to use his/her name and photographic image in press releases, SJPT social media, and articles appearing on **sjpt.org** and in SJPT newsletters.

Our intention in 2026 is to award two scholarships—one to each of two students who are San Juan County residents and are graduating from a high school or have been home-schooled in San Juan County. We encourage a diverse range of students to apply, representing differences of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, physical abilities, religious beliefs, and ideologies.

Our award of two scholarships assumes that we receive two applications that we deem award-worthy. If this standard is not met, we reserve the right to award fewer than two scholarships.



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APPLICATION

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The scholarships are intended to recognize and encourage a diverse mix of young members of our island communities who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment, effort, and imagination in addressing the issue of climate change, and who plan a course of study that equips them to amplify their climate-focused endeavors—whether through scientific inquiry, the arts, media, or other forms of active community engagement.

To be considered, students must meet the eligibility requirements (see page 1) and submit the following:

- High school transcript or list of home-schooled subject areas of study
- A resume that includes a list of your extracurricular activities and any part-time work that you have done or are doing
- Response to one of the essay prompts below
- Two letters of recommendation
 - One from a teacher, subject instructor, or employer
 - One from someone else who knows you well
 - With application, provide name and contact information for each person from whom you have requested a recommendation
 - Ask those who write your recommendation letters to email them directly to scholarships@sjpt.org.
 - Letters of recommendation must be received by or before the application deadline (Noon on May 8) to be considered as part of the application.

ESSAY PROMPTS

In 650 to 1,200 words, answer one of the following four essay questions:

- What has fostered your interest in climate change and your desire to address its effects?
- What activities that you have participated in have spurred your interest in working to address climate change now and in your future?
- Over the next two, five, and ten years, how do you see yourself having a positive influence on the effects of climate change?
- How do your beliefs influence your choice of educational direction, and how might this choice affect our future as Earth's climate changes?

Feel free to include supporting materials in the form of your own **original** photographs, videos, audio recordings, images of your artwork, etc.

OPTIONAL QUESTION

- Is there something else special that you have done (not included in your main essay) that you would like to tell us about? (400 word maximum)

TO APPLY

Submit all components of this scholarship application or any questions you may have regarding the process via email to: Liz Doane, Education and Outreach Specialist, at:

scholarships@sjpt.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All complete scholarship applications must be received by **12:00 noon on May 8.**