



## **Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Kentucky Ornithological Society**

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. It honors the memory of Virginia “Ginny” and Dr. Wendell Kingsolver and their contributions to environmental and educational groups across Kentucky.

Both Kingsolvers served as president of KOS. The board chose to honor them by creating a scholarship to offer educational opportunities for teenage birders in Kentucky.

The options listed below provide a wide variety of opportunities for teens to take their birding skills to the next level, meet others with similar interests, and explore careers in birding and ornithology.

Each program has slightly different age restrictions and requirements, so applicants should carefully consider which program best fits their interests and make sure they meet the requirements before applying. All applicants must live in Kentucky. Scholarship funds will cover the cost of the program which typically covers lodging, meals, transportation to and from an airport, camp events and instructional sessions. Transportation is NOT included but may be applied for separately once a scholarship is awarded. Transportation cost should not keep any teen from applying.

To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, a student should fill out the application, write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she chose the program they chose, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. We will ask students who receive scholarships to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to KOS at a meeting, or in writing.

Applications can be submitted year-round however grants will be subject to availability at the camps which in some years have been filled to capacity.

Completed applications should be mailed to Carol Besse, 1262 Willow Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204 or emailed to [csbesse@bellsouth.net](mailto:csbesse@bellsouth.net)

Applications will be approved or rejected within two weeks to allow applicants to apply directly to the chosen program. Funds will be disbursed directly from KOS to the program sponsor.



## Scholarship Opportunities

**Please read the age range and other requirements carefully to be sure you qualify for your chosen program.**

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### **American Birding Association camps, Allenspark, Colorado and Lewes, Delaware**

These camps are six nights each in early August. KOS can put applicants in touch with Kentucky teens who have attended both camps. Applications opened in mid-November and can fill fast. Read about the details and qualifications below.

<https://www.aba.org/camps/>

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### **Camp TALON, St. Simons Island, Georgia**

This camp is operated by the Georgia Wildlife Division. It runs for 5 nights in late May, early June. KOS can put applicants in touch with past attendees.

<https://georgiawildlife.com/CampTALON>

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### **Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York**

Cornell's Young Birders event focuses on teens who might be interested in a career in ornithology. Held at the famous lab, participants will be exposed to the wide variety of disciplines that support bird conservation. The program runs for 4 days in late June. Applications open in February 2026.

<https://ebird.org/about/young-birders-event>

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### **Hog Island Audubon Camp for Teens**

Hog Island Audubon offers 4 camps for teens, each 5 days long primarily in June. The location can be difficult to get to, but not impossible. Registration opens in mid-November and can fill quickly.

<https://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/camp>

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### **Beaverhill Lake, Alberta, CANADA**

This Young Ornithologists Workshop has no tuition, so a Kingsolver scholarship will cover transportation to the camp. Admission is very competitive and a **valid passport is required.**

<https://beaverhillbirds.com/programs/young-ornithologist-workshop/>



**Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship  
Application  
Kentucky Ornithological Society**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different from applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of applicant's school: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

How old were you when you started birding? \_\_\_\_\_

Who taught you about birds? \_\_\_\_\_

How often do you go birding? \_\_\_\_\_

How many bird species have you seen in Kentucky? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to a birding club or society? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

Which Program are you applying for?

☐ ABA Camp Colorado

☐ Cornell Young Birders Event

☐ ABA Camp Avocet

☐ Teen Week, Hog Island Audubon

☐ Camp TALON

☐ Beaverhill Lake, Canada

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of  
Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_