

Jensen Beach Garden Club opens scholarship opportunities

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Jensen Beach Garden Club

JENSEN BEACH — What might a future marine biologist, landscape architect, coastal restoration scientist or agricultural specialist have in common? Their journey could begin right here in Jensen Beach.

The Jensen Beach Garden Club is once again offering college scholarships in 2027 to Jensen Beach High School graduates who plan to pursue studies in horticulture, landscape design, environmental science, farming, sustainability, gardening, conservation, botany, turf management, forestry, marine biology or a related field.

Now in its third year, the Scholarship Program is about much more than helping students pay for college. It is an investment in young people who may one day help communities like ours protect waterways, restore shorelines, design sustainable landscapes, improve food production, manage forests and preserve natural habitats.

Past scholarship recipients are already beginning that journey, pursuing degrees in marine biology, environmental science and engineering, with several becoming involved in land conservation, environmental law and water quality studies.

Those fields can lead in many directions. A horticulture student might become a plant scientist; a landscape design student, a landscape architect creating beautiful, resilient communities. Studies in agronomy could lead to a career as an agricultural specialist improving how and where our food is grown.

A marine biology student might become a coastal restoration scientist working to restore shorelines and protect marine habitats. Others may become botanists, foresters, conservation scientists, water-quality specialists, turfgrass professionals or sustainability consultants.

And a young person who simply loves being outdoors may discover that passion can become a profession.

For the Jensen Beach Garden Club, that connection between education and the future of our natural resources is especially meaningful. Founded in 1950, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has more than 120 members and a 75-year history of community service.

Club members and local volunteers recently partnered with the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) on shoreline restoration efforts to help protect the Indian River Lagoon and with the Martin County Orchid Society to help reestablish endangered native orchids. The Club also supports educational programs at the Environmental Studies Center, Florida Oceanographic Society and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County.

Members maintain gardens at Indian Riverside Park, the award-winning Butterfly Garden at Hoke Library and the Senior Center at Langford Park, often working alongside local Scouts and Jensen Beach High School JROTC volunteers.

These partnerships give young people an opportunity to see conservation, horticulture and community service in action. The Scholarship Program carries that connection one step further, linking work being done in Martin County today with the people who may carry it forward tomorrow.

Community support makes that possible. Proceeds from the Jensen Beach Garden Club's Annual Garden Expo, together with public and private sponsorships, help the Club expand its charitable giving and investment in education and local programs. The next Garden Expo will be held Feb. 27, 2027.

Graduating Jensen Beach High School seniors may apply through XELLO via ClassLink. Eligibility requirements include an application, an essay, official transcripts, résumé and two letters of recommendation. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited two- or four-year college or university.

For more information, visit jensenbeachgardenclub.com.



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