

# Carolina Eco-Innovators Scholarship Competition

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

Sponsored by:



## **Competition Overview**

The “Shark Tank” style scholarship competition for local high school students who have an innovative idea to tackle an environmental problem facing our region is back! The 2021-2022 Carolina Eco-Innovators Scholarship Competition is sponsored by Bank of America.

Applicants are invited to choose a topic or problem from one of the participating environmental organizations and propose a plan to address the issue. Submissions will include a written and a video component. The finalists will work with a mentor from their corresponding nonprofit to prepare a final presentation of their plan. Final presentations will be held on stage in front of an audience and a panel of judges, who will determine the winners of the scholarships. The final event will be hosted in March 2022.

## **Timeline:**

**Submissions accepted:** September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Submissions evaluated:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Finalists notified by:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Final Presentation:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **Awards:**

Each Finalist is invited to intern with their representing non-profit organization after their first year of college.

**Grand Prize - \$4,000 Scholarship**

**First Runner-up - \$2,000 Scholarship**

**Second Runner-up - \$1,000 Scholarship**

**Audience Vote Winner - \$500 Scholarship**

## **Eligibility:**

Local high school students that are residents from the following counties are eligible to compete.

**North Carolina:** Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Rowan, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Union, Stanly.

**South Carolina:** York, Lancaster, Chester

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### Competition Process:

#### **Phase 1: Idea Submission**

Students will choose a topic or problem that one of the partners have submitted and develop a solution that they believe the organization could implement to help solve the problem. The idea submission may be research-based, involve coding and database creation, revolve around a built solution, or be a public awareness campaign to make a concern or issue more relatable and relevant; the possibilities are endless.

The partner submitted topics may be accessed at:  
[catawbariverkeeper.org/carolina-eco-innovators](http://catawbariverkeeper.org/carolina-eco-innovators)

They will then submit a written plan (no more than two pages) and a video presentation (no longer than 2 minutes) to supplement their written plan, detailed to the best of their abilities.

The written component must be saved in a .pdf file format. The video must be uploaded to a video service that does not require additional permissions or passwords to view and then provide the video link within the application submission. For example, the video may be uploaded to YouTube (it may be unlisted) or Vimeo. Do not use a private Google Drive link that requires permissions to view.

The written plan and video link will be submitted through the application found here:  
<https://forms.gle/Sqrxjy4DK3B5BrGA9>

Students are welcome to submit multiple applications, but only one (1) idea submission per topic or problem.

The submission period is open through **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**.

#### **Phase 2: Evaluation and Selection**

Submission evaluation and selection will occur from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A screening committee consisting of representatives from Bank of America and Catawba Riverkeeper will review all preliminary submissions. Semi-finalists are chosen based on their idea and the quality of the written and video presentation.

Each nonprofit partner then receives their semi-finalist applicants and will narrow down the pool to a single finalist to take to 'the stage' in March for their organization.

Finalists will be informed of their status by **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

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### Phase 3: Coaching

Finalists will work alongside a mentor from their solution's corresponding nonprofit organization. Students and mentors will set their own schedules to receive support and guidance in the planning of their final presentation.

The coaching portion of the competition will take place between **February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.**

### Phase 4: The Stage

The final event will consist of finalists taking the stage and presenting their concepts to a panel of judges. The finalists are judged on creativity of solution, viability of the solution, and presentation.

The presentation may take different forms. Examples include a diorama of the proposed plan or a visual presentation using slides. The finalist will be required to present this presentation in under five (5) minutes.

The event will be hosted in-person and will follow state guidelines related to COVID-19 at the time. Finalists will be allowed to invite a specified number of guests to the event to view the presentations. The event will also be streamed virtually.

After all finalists have presented, the judges will choose the winners and the audience viewers will have the opportunity to vote for their top pick. The \$500 Audience Vote Winner may be awarded to any of the finalists.

### Awards:

Each Finalist is invited to intern with their partner non-profit organization after their first year of college.

**Grand Prize - \$4,000 Scholarship**  
**First Runner-up - \$2,000 Scholarship**  
**Second Runner-up - \$1,000 Scholarship**  
**Audience Vote Winner - \$500 Scholarship**

### Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact:

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