



Jeffrey Matheny Scholarship Application

Friends of Virgin Islands National Park sponsors a scholarship program to encourage higher education among Virgin Islanders with an interest in the cultural and environmental well-being of the Virgin Islands. This scholarship is for local youth who demonstrate passion and dedication toward environmental protection, emblematic of Jeffrey Matheny.

The Jeffrey Matheny Scholarship is awarded to a St. John or St. Thomas student who is attending or entering an accredited college or university. Applicants must have a declared or intended major in a field related to the protection and management of natural resources in the Virgin Islands. Eligible fields include environmental science, marine biology, resource management, or other areas that contribute to the protection, preservation, and sustainability of the Virgin Islands. The annual scholarship awards \$5,000 per academic year, disbursed at a rate of \$2,500 per semester.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must:

- **Be a St. John or St. Thomas resident, and have completed high school in the U.S. Virgin Islands (or be currently in the final semester of senior year).**
- **Have attained a minimum 3.0 ("B") average during their most recent three semesters of high school and/or college (whichever is applicable).**
- **Plan to major in a field related to natural or cultural resource protections.**
- **Submit two letters of recommendation, including one from a teacher, educator, or school counselor.**

More information about this scholarship is available at www.friendsvinp.org/scholarships.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE MARCH 13, 2026 to Ki'Janne' Alfred at kalfred@friendsvinp.org or call 340-779-4940 with any questions.

Friends of
Virgin Islands National Park
Jeffrey Matheny Scholarship Application

Date: _____

Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Physical Address: _____

Email Address: _____

High School(s) Attended: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

University Attending: _____

Date of University Entry: _____

Intended Major: _____

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**Jeffrey Matheny Scholarship
Application Attachments Checklist**

Please attach the following items to complete your application:

1. **Official Transcript**
 - a. An official copy of your high school or university transcript.
2. **Personal Essay (approximately 250 words)**
 - a. Topic: *“Why pursuing study in a field related to cultural or natural resource management is important to me and the future of the Virgin Islands.”*
 - b. Applicants should ensure that their essay reflects their own thoughts and experiences; any use of AI tools should be appropriately acknowledged.
3. **Two (2) Letters of Recommendation**
 - a. One from a **current teacher, educator, or counselor**
 - b. One from a **community member** who knows you personally and can serve as a character reference.

Guidance for Recommenders

References should submit a **signed letter** addressing the applicant’s relevant qualifications and character. While recommenders are welcome to structure their letter as they see fit, the following suggested questions may be shared to help guide their response, if needed:

1. How do you know the applicant, and for how long?
2. What strengths, leadership qualities, or personal traits stand out most?
3. How has the applicant demonstrated interest in environmental, cultural, or community issues in the Virgin Islands?
4. Why do you believe this applicant would be a good recipient of the Jeffrey Matheny Scholarship?

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