

The Norris-Gaynor Student Scholarship

The Norris-Gaynor Student Scholarship was established in 2019 through a generous contribution by Lavern Norris Gaynor, a long-time champion of youth education and environmental causes. Managed by Friends of Rookery Bay, the scholarship funds internships at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for generations to come.

"Inspired by my parents, it continues to be meaningful to me to give back to my community and an organization that was so important to my father, Lester Norris, who played an early and essential role in protecting Rookery Bay. I'm so pleased that this gift will have a lasting impact on education and research at the Reserve. It will help establish sustainable support for the young adults, as they work alongside experienced staff, helping to provide and conserve natural habitats and environments. I am most happy that I can continue my family's legacy."

-Lavern Norris Gaynor

Details

- One scholarship will be awarded annually to support an internship at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (\$5,000 to \$8,000 based on duration).
- Applicants must meet the scholarship criteria as well as internship-specific criteria.
- Intern is selected in mutual agreement by a committee comprised of staff from the Friends of Rookery Bay and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- The selected intern will present his/her experience at the end of the internship and write a letter to the Norris-Gaynor family summarizing their experience.

Minimum Criteria

- A graduating high school senior or enrolled in a post-secondary institution.
- Demonstrates formal training or coursework in the designated internship field.
- One letter of recommendation and a cover letter discussing how the internship will enhance your continued education or professional pursuits.
- A passion and commitment toward environmental education, research, or natural resource management

The Norris-Gaynor Student Scholarship is a designated Friends of Rookery Bay fund managed by the Collier Community Foundation. Any individual, business or foundation may make a tax deductible contribution to the fund by visiting cfcollier.org or by mailing a check made payable to "Friends of Rookery Bay Norris-Gaynor Scholarship" to: 300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113. For more information, call 239-530-5990.

The non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay connects people to southwest Florida's dynamic coastal environment in support of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve provides a basis for informed stewardship of estuaries in Southwest Florida through research and education.

Location:

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center
300 Tower Road
Naples, FL 34113

Timeline: January-May, 2024

Availability: 15-20 hour per week

Responsibilities: This position will be responsible for aiding the Education Staff at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve by supporting a variety of on- and off-site educational programs delivered to audiences of all ages.

Duties include conducting field experiences for students (primarily grades 4-12) as well as interpretation in the Environmental Learning Center.

Additional opportunities to participate in outreach and field work with other Reserve departments will enhance the understanding of the variety of work that takes place within Reserve boundaries.

Requirements:

- must have reliable transportation and report to the RBNERR campus as scheduled
- successfully complete assigned tasks within a reasonable time frame
- be prepared for work indoors, outside, and on boats
- give a presentation at the end of the term

Preferred Skills: ability to follow directions, manage time appropriately, communicate effectively and appropriately to a variety of age groups, and work independently and as part of a team.