



## 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 fund is managed at the Collier Community Foundation. Tax deductible donations to the fund can be made at [rookerybay.org](http://rookerybay.org) or by check payable to Friends of Rookery Bay; memo: "Norris Gaynor Student Scholarship."

The 110,000-acre Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, Florida provides a basis for informed stewardship of estuaries through research, education and conservation. The 501(c)(3) non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay connects people to southwest Florida's dynamic coastal environment in support of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.