



February 2021

## 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.

*“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 each year to support a ~6-month internship  
Applicants must meet minimum criteria as well as additional internship-specific criteria
- Intern selected in mutual agreement by Friends of Rookery Bay and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Selected intern will present on his/her experience at the end of the internship

### Minimum Criteria

- A graduating high school senior or enrolled in a post-secondary institution (public, two year, or four year)
- Demonstrates formal training or coursework in the designated internship field
- One letter of recommendation and a cover letter discussing how the internship fits your current areas of expertise and how it 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 Community Foundation of Collier County. Any individual, business or foundation may make a tax deductible contribution to the fund by visiting [cfcollier.org](http://cfcollier.org) or by mailing a check made payable to “Friends of Rookery Bay Norris-Gaynor Scholarship” to: 300 Tower Road, Naples, FL 34113.

### Past Internship Awards

2020 – Morgan Zeleny – Education Department

### About Rookery Bay

The non-profit Friends of Rookery Bay connects people to southwest Florida’s dynamic coastal environmental in support of Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Reserve provides a basis for informed stewardship of estuaries in Southwest Florida through research and education. Visit [RookeryBay.org](http://RookeryBay.org) for more information.

### **Current Internship: Marketing & Communications**

**Position description:** The intern will assist Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR) research and stewardship staff across multiple laboratory- and field-based programs, including water quality, avian monitoring, and vegetation/elevation monitoring. The Intern will be expected to perform best practices of laboratory cleanliness as well as work under inclement conditions in the field (boating and carrying equipment in hot and/or rainy conditions). The intern will work with multiple members of the research team and will be mentored by the Research Coordinator at RBNERR.

**Benefits:** The intern will learn standard ecological research and data management methodologies and gain valuable career-building experience and skills in the environmental science field, while supporting the important monitoring programs at Rookery Bay. This excellent opportunity can help shape the intern's future education and/or career goals.

**Requirements:** The intern will work with the avian research team based at RBNERR to coordinate monitoring efforts and data collection and management. Any required boat training will be conducted in the initial weeks. The intern will be required to follow a set work schedule, be prepared to begin work as early as 7am, be available to work weekends, arrive to work on time, and complete all assigned tasks in a reasonable amount of time. The intern must be prepared for work that involves being on a boat for extended periods and exposed to hot weather, bugs, and intense sun. The intern must be able to get on and off the boat and walk up to 5 miles on the beach carrying field equipment. The intern will be required to conduct safe field practices at all times.

**Preferred skills:** Boating experience; bird identification experience; ability to use binoculars and spotting scope; computer experience (Microsoft Office, Access Database, email, etc.); ability to follow detailed field protocols; ability to manage time appropriately; and ability to work independently and as part of a team.

**Deliverables:** All field notes, hard-copy data sheets, and electronic data must be neatly compiled and delivered to RBNERR. The intern will work with the RBNERR communications specialist to produce one general-audience write-up about the internship experience. The intern will produce a final product such as an oral presentation, a poster presentation, or a 2-page technical report on a specific topic related to the internship.

**Department:** Research and Stewardship

**Length of commitment:** ~4 months

**Hours per week:** ~20

**Location:** Naples, Florida

**Application Closing Date:** Rolling

**Anticipated Start Date:** May 1, 2021

**Questions and Submit:** [info@rookerybay.org](mailto:info@rookerybay.org); Subject: Research & Stewardship Internship Application

- Cover Letter
- 1 Letter of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Availability (length and hours)