

Norris-Gaynor Student Scholarship

The Norris-Gaynor 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 will fund 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 \$7,200 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 Board of Directors and Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Director
- 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 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 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.