



2015 DVOC Adam J. Sabatine Scholarship Award **Application Instructions & Qualifications**

The DVOC is pleased to sponsor the Adam J. Sabatine Memorial Scholarship Award. This scholarship program will benefit students with an interest in birds to help them attend summer camp(s) and other conservation-related activities.

Students between the ages of 13 to 18 with an interest in birding are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. We will consider candidates based on both merit and/or financial need.

The successful candidate of the award, selected by the scholarship committee will be awarded a \$900 scholarship toward *ABA Camp Avocet*. In cases of exceptional circumstances, a larger amount may be awarded. Details about Camp Avocet may be found on the ABA website: <http://events.aba.org/aba-young-birder-camps/>

DVOC will make payment directly to ABA on behalf of the scholarship winner. The parent or legal guardian of the applicant must sign a statement of commitment and accept financial responsibility for the balance of the camp fee and the additional cost of transportation to and from the camp.

1. Applicants must submit a completed scholarship application (downloaded from DVOC.org)
2. Applicants must supply two letters of recommendation from a teacher, nature center, director or staff member, or an adult who knows your commitment to birding.
3. Applicants will write a personal statement no longer than two sides of letter-sized paper, or submit an eight slide power point presentation, telling us about the importance of birds in your life. Examples may include what facets of bird stimulate your interest, the types of birding activities you enjoy, and participation in CBCs, surveys, projects, organized walks, and other group birding activities. Your statement should include your birding experience, influences, goals, and personal commitment.

Application, statement, and recommendation letters must be received by May 1, 2015. Scholarship announcement will be made on or before June 1, 2015. Applications should be submitted by email (electronic submission preferred) to youthscholarship@dvoc.org or mailed to:

**Delaware Valley Ornithological Club Youth Birding Committee
Attn: Adam J. Sabatine Memorial Scholarship
c/o The Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103**



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Please note: If you are selected to receive the Adam J. Sabatine Memorial Scholarship, you will be requested attend a DVOC meeting to share your camp experience with our members. The Scholarship Chairperson will contact you to schedule a convenient date to attend, thank you!

Award Qualifications

- Applicant must be between the ages of 13 to 18, and live in the Delaware Valley (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or Delaware).
- Applicant must have an interest in birding or birding related activities.
- Applicant must clearly articulate their passion for birding and birding related activities in their personal statement submitted with their application either by written statement or an eight slide power point presentation. This step will account for 70% of the selection process.
- Applicant must demonstrate their commitment to birding by providing two letters of recommendation from adults that can confirm their interest in birding or bird related activity. This step of the process will account for 30% of the selection process.
- Applicants must commit to the financial statement, and be willing to pay their required portion of the tuition/fees associated with the camp selected. Financial needs of the applicant will be considered but only if the applicant would like this information to be considered.
- The Scholarship committee will select the candidate that meets or exceeds expectations of the committee in all categories. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Youth Birding Committee will select the candidate for the award.