# Scholarship Essay Sample for an Environmental Studies Undergraduate Student for a School's Scholarship Program

*What I want to be has been clear to me since childhood. I do not refer to a stereotypical child’s dream of being a doctor or astronaut, but it has been something that has shaped my decisions and actions throughout my life. In the last few years, I have realized that my passion for environmental conservation is a natural calling that I am destined to follow. This intuitive notion solidified while visiting my mother in Johannesburg a few summers ago. In my old bedroom, my mother has kept framed memorabilia from my childhood. One night before I went to sleep I looked on the bed-stand to find an old article that dated back to my third year of elementary school. After rereading this article thirteen years later, with a smile, I recognized my destiny is and has always been devoting my career to the conservation and preservation of our ecosystems.*

*Let me tell you about the letter and what led to it. In my third-grade class, we attempted to introduce higher biodiversity along a creek by adding plants, which in turn attract other organisms. Some of the older teenagers had rampaged through and stole our plants while trampling the beautiful ecosystem. I wanted to send a message to stop such destruction and the following article ended up in our town newspaper. Although I was only in third grade, the destruction of the environment affected me more deeply than most of my fellow classmates and continues to do so today. I wish to embark on an educational journey to beautiful Montverde, Costa Rica for the Tropical Ecology and Conservation program in the Spring of 2021. In order to take this step in my educational career, I am applying for financial aid through the John E. Bowman Travel Grants, CIEE International Study Programs Scholarships, and the Jennifer Ritzmann Scholarship for studies in Tropical Biology. Throughout my life, I have always been passionate about contributing to the conservation of our earth. It became clear to me upon entering my college career that my focus should be on wildlife conservation. When I learned about this program I became ecstatic. Partaking in this unique opportunity will prepare me for my future career goals and aid my growth as a conservationist and a young woman. While participating in this program I will apply the knowledge and resources learned during the courses that I take in Costa Rica to real-world situations. I will be working in the field amongst other scientists and gaining hands-on experience, which will enrich my current education and my future career. Furthermore, I will be able to contribute to the conservation of the tropical forest through my education as well as gain a better cultural understanding of the world around me.*

*To further explain my situation, I’d like to say that I come from a broken home and was raised by my mother on a very low income. So, I do not receive any financial support from my family and little from the federal government to fund my college education. Therefore my financial needs are very high. Throughout my life, I have strived to achieve my goals solely through hard work and determination. For example, in the last five years that I have attended school, I have struggled to receive enough federal loans to pay my tuition and have been working at night while attending school in order to barely scrape by. However, I know that this has made me a stronger person and gives me a greater passion for what I am trying to achieve. At this moment in time, my situation is even more extreme than ever. Instead of working full-time all summer to save money, I have been going to summer school in order to complete the required courses before I depart for this program in the spring. The demands of summer school leave me no time for part-time employment.*

*Consequently, in order for me to embark on this incredible opportunity I am extremely reliant on grants and scholarships to see this experience come to fruition. These scholarships and grants will assist me in achieving my goals by supporting my trip expenses in Costa Rica. In essence, they will allow me to receive an excellent education in an amazing country as well as apply this knowledge to help conserve our precious ecosystems that are in danger of ultimate destruction and demise. Likewise, by supporting my education these funds will enable me to spread my newfound insight and knowledge to further educate the people around me as I plan to teach in conservation programs such as the Student Conservation Corps. Thank you so much for your consideration.*