CALLING ALL COLLEGE-ATTENDING BIRDERS OR THOSE INTERESTED IN GETTING INTO BIRDING

Now Accepting Applications for Scholarships to Attend the North Shore Birding Festival, January 16–20, 2020

The North Shore Birding Festival on the north shore of beautiful Lake Apopka, northwest of Orlando in Central Florida, features an amazing birding hotspot that is currently the top eBird hotspot in Florida.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) seeks to assist college students to participate in its birding festival, using scholarship funds donated by OAS members and other festival participants and – new this year – half price registration for most trips with your student email address.

The festival registration itself is already very affordable, for example, an afternoon field trip costs $25 and a keynote with dinner costs just $20, and there is no additional overall festival registration fee.

Unfortunately, if you are a student from out of town, lodging may be expensive.

In your application, propose the costs for which you wish to be reimbursed. Depending on funds available, you may be offered up to the maximum scholarship of $100 for lodging and/or travel expenses.

If you are selected for the scholarship, you will be expected to register online using the student half price rate, and OAS will reimburse you up to $100 for travel expenses after the festival. For lodging, you will be reimbursed by check after providing your original receipt.

How to apply (Applications will be accepted until all scholarships are awarded)

1. Survey the festival offerings and select trips and keynotes for which you would like to register.

2. For out-of-town students, figure out a travel budget (for gas and lodging, just lodging or just gas) and write out how you hope to be reimbursed, up to $100. On to the festival website the Locations and Lodging page lists places to stay. If you travel with other students to share expenses (encouraged), please list the other students in your application. You will be reimbursed for your portion of expenses.

3. Fill out this simple application, a Google Form https://forms.gle/P9vybjiunj4P89Rd7 and hit Submit to transmit it to the North Shore Birding Festival Scholarship Committee. The deadline was originally November 10th, and as only one student applied by then, we have extended the offer. However, as students apply, scholarships will be awarded with notification within two weeks. By the final December 16th deadline, the six remaining scholarships may be already awarded.

4. If you are awarded a scholarship, register online for your trips and keynotes as soon as possible. Early registration is encouraged, as many trips will be filling up.

5. Students receiving a scholarship, will be required to fill out a W-9 form prior to reimbursement from Orange Audubon Society. If you have any questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call Deborah at 407-637-2525.

Please LIKE our festival on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/northshorebirdingfestival

The North Shore Birding Festival is organized by Orange Audubon Society, a Florida nonprofit [501(c)(3)], to promote an important birding area and to demonstrate the economic value of birding ecotourism. All proceeds go to Orange Audubon Society’s fund toward a nature and environmental education center, target site: the Lake Apopka North Shore area. We hope you can join us at the festival!

Donations to Orange Audubon Society, Inc., a Florida nonprofit [501(c)(3)] organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free, 1-800-435-7352, within the state. From outside of Florida call 1-850-410-3800. Visit www.800helpfla.com for help. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Registration no. CH2330.