



CVSan

Environmental Leader

Student Scholarship - \$1,000 each

2025/2026



Application due Friday, February 6, 2026 by 2:00 p.m.

Complete and submit application online at [**cvsan.org/Schools**](https://cvsan.org/Schools).



CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

INTRODUCTION

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) has an ambitious plan to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to landfills and achieve Zero Waste (90 percent or more diversion from landfill). To achieve this goal, CVSan strives to provide best practices, education, and school and community programs on recycling and reducing waste. In 2013, CVSan developed the CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship to recognize students who are helping their school and community to reduce waste and foster sustainability by utilizing the tenets of the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot, as well as other environmental protection concepts and practices. The Environmental Leader Scholarship is intended to foster environmental stewardship and the leadership of students who are taking action to encourage environmental awareness within their school and/or in the community.

INSTRUCTIONS

Who is eligible?

- Applicants must be enrolled at Castro Valley High School, Castro Valley Virtual Academy, Redwood High School, or OneSchool Global (Castro Valley location) as a high school senior with an expected graduation date of May or June 2026, or be a home-schooled high school senior with an expected graduation date of May or June 2026; **or**,
- Applicants must be enrolled as a high school senior (attending a school inside of CVSan boundaries) with an expected graduation date of May or June 2026 and must live within CVSan boundaries (provide copy of Alameda County Industries (ACI) bill from within the last six months or other proof of residency in the CVSan boundaries).
- No immediate family members of CVSan staff or Board members are eligible to apply.
- Selected applicants must plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire 2026/2027 academic year.
- Application must be received online by CVSan no later than **Friday, February 6, 2026 by 2:00 p.m., no exceptions.**

(Internal Use ONLY) Applicant # _____



CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

SCORING STANDARDS

Up to two applicants will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements listed in the *Instructions* section above to have their application processed by CVSan. Applications received by CVSan before 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6th will be numbered by CVSan staff who will not participate in the scholarship scoring process. Information provided by the applicant in *Applicant Information* and *Certification Statement* will not be provided to those evaluating/scoring applicants to ensure all applications are evaluated fairly.

Refer to page 8 of this application for specific scoring criteria.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____
E-mail _____
Address _____
Primary Phone Number _____
Birthdate _____

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School _____
School Address _____
Telephone _____
Current Grade Level _____
Current Weighted GPA _____
Current Unweighted GPA _____

INTENDED MAJOR/FIELD OF STUDY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Are you planning to enroll in a 2 or 4-year college/university/vocational-technical school in Fall 2026 for the entire 2026/2027 academic year? Circle one: Yes No

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CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

All the information on this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked to do so, I agree to provide proof of the information that I have given on this application. I realize that if I do not provide proof in a timely manner, I will not be considered for a scholarship.

I agree that if I am selected to receive a CVSan Scholarship, I will provide proof of enrollment for the 2026/27 academic year. If selected, I agree to have my name, photo, school, intended major/field of study, and future school (if available) published by CVSan in a variety of publications, both printed and on the World Wide Web.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if applicant is a minor)

Date

(Internal Use ONLY) Applicant # _____



CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List all volunteer experiences, leadership activities, and community involvement:

| Organization | Position | Description | Year | Hours/Month |
|--------------|----------|-------------|------|-------------|
| | | | | |
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AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED

| Award/Recognition Name | Date Received | Description |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

| Current Work Experience | Previous Work Experience |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of company: | Name of company: |
| Position: | Position: |
| Major responsibilities: | Major responsibilities: |
| Date from: Date to: | Date from: Date to: |
| Hours/Week: | Hours/Week: |

REFERENCES

Applicants must include at least one (1) letter of recommendation from teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, community leaders, mentors, or work supervisors (no family members). Student applicants should advise their references to list the student's name only in the subject line of the letter.

1. Name: _____
Relationship to applicant: _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____
Email: _____
2. Name: _____
Relationship to applicant: _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____
Email: _____

(Internal Use ONLY) Applicant # _____



CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

PARTICIPATION IN CVSAN ACTIVITIES

CVSan sponsors several waste reduction and educational activities each year. Please select 'yes' or 'no' to the following activities:

| Yes | No | | Date |
|-----|----|--|------|
| | | Have you assisted with your school's Green Ribbon Application? | |
| | | Have you participated in CVSan's Earth Day Clean-Up event? | |
| | | Have you participated in a CVSan Zero Waste Week event? (List Event: | |
| | | Have you attended another CVSan event, meeting or program not listed above? (List: | |

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Castro Valley and the surrounding community has several environmentally focused activities each year. Please select 'yes' or 'no' to the following non-CVSan activities:

| Yes | No | | Date |
|-----|----|---|------|
| | | Are you a member of the 'Green Team' at your school? | |
| | | Are you a member of an environmentally focused club at your school? List: | |
| | | Have you written a paper or completed a school project on environmentally focused topics? List (you may also attach documents if you would like to): | |
| | | Are you a member of an environmentally focused group or organization outside of school? List: | |
| | | Have you written letters to companies or organizations to take advocating for more environmentally focused actions and policies? (if so, please attach to this application) | |
| | | Have you participated in environmentally focused volunteer events such as Creek Cleanups, Earth Day, Litter Pickups, or others? List: | |
| | | Have you attended any other environmentally focused events, meetings or programs not listed above? List: | |

ESSAY: DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OR LEADERSHIP ROLE

Any student who has carried out an environmental project and/or demonstrated a role as an environmental leader is encouraged to apply for the CVSan Environment Leader Scholarship. Write essay answers (please note maximum word count) addressing each of the following topics:

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CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

- What does environmental stewardship mean to you? Describe an experience where you had an opportunity to act as an environmental steward. (500 word maximum)
- Briefly describe your environmental stewardship project or your role as an environmental leader and what inspired you to carry out this project or role. (200 word maximum)
- Describe the results of your project or your leadership role: did your project result in waste reduction or change environmental behavior at your school or in the community? (200 word maximum)
- In what ways has your project or leadership role increased environmental awareness within your school and/or in your community? (200 word maximum)
- **Attachments** – You may electronically submit up to two pages of attachments that support your project and/or scholarship application. Attachments can contain photos, illustrations, or additional information that do not fit on the application pages 5-7 above.

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CVSan Environmental Leader Scholarship

CVSAN USE ONLY

SCORING CRITERIA TO BE USED BY CVSAN

Listed below are the scoring criteria that CVSan will use to evaluate each scholarship application:

| Yes | No | Scholarship Application Requirements |
|-----|----|--|
| | | 1. Enrolled as CVHS senior, CVVA senior, RHS senior, OneSchool Global senior, or home-schooled senior? |
| | | 2. Applicant lives within CVSan boundaries? |
| | | 3. Applicant selected "yes" to enrolling in 2- or 4-year college/university/vocational school? |
| | | 4. Application received by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026? |
| | | 5. Application printed double-sided or submitted electronically? |
| | | 6. Certification statement signed? |
| | | Fulfilled five of six application requirements above (#1. and/or #2. plus #3. through #6.) |

| Application Components | Eligible Points | Points Awarded | Weight | Weighted Score* |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. Provided letter of recommendation. | (0-3) | | x 1 | |
| 2. Followed application instructions. | (0-3) | | x 1 | |
| 3. Fit of environmental project/environmental leader role with waste reduction and the 4Rs. | (0-3) | | x 3 | |
| 4. Creativeness of environmental project/environmental leadership role. | (0-3) | | x 2.5 | |
| 5. Extracurricular activities | (0-5) | | x 1 | |
| 6. Employment experience | (0-5) | | x 1 | |
| 7. Participation in CVSan activities. | (0-8) | | x 1 | |
| 8. Participation in Community activities | (0-11) | | x 1 | |
| 9. Quality of essay. | (0-3) | | x 2.5 | |
| 10. Quality of attachments. | (0-2) | | x 1 | |
| 11. Overall quality of application. | (0-3) | | x 3 | |
| Total | | | | /70 |

*Weighted Score = Points Awarded value multiplied by the Weight value

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