

Friends of Gumbo Limbo

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www.gumbolimbo.org

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**Our Mission
is to support
coastal and
marine education,
conservation and
research endeavors
of the Gumbo
Limbo Nature
Center.**

Attention: High School Seniors

The Friends of Gumbo Limbo

2018 High School Scholarships

History of the Gordon J. Gilbert Scholarship

Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex first opened to the public in 1984 as a nature preserve set amid one of the few surviving coastal hammocks in South Florida. **Our Mission is to increase public awareness of coastal and marine ecosystems through research, education, preservation and conservation.**

Through the efforts of local residents, the city of Boca Raton purchased this wooded area that spans the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic dunes. Part of the land was set aside for environmental education and it is this portion that became Gumbo Limbo. The director of Gumbo Limbo was Gordon Gilbert, a former science teacher at Boca High School and one of those foresighted persons who worked to make this land preservation a reality.

History of the Charles N. Kurucz Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Charles N. Kurucz was the first in his family to attend college and went on to obtain a PhD and become a professor at the University of Miami for over 35 years. An avid sailor, he was always a passionate supporter of marine conservation, especially in Biscayne Bay and the Florida Keys. His Family has carried forth this passion for the marine sciences in their involvement with Gumbo Limbo since 2003.

Scholarships

The Board of Trustees of Friends of Gumbo Limbo has established high school senior scholarships named to honor Gordon Gilbert and also offers a need-based Charles N. Kurucz scholarship.

The **Gordon J. Gilbert merit-based** scholarship awards **\$2,500** scholarships to high school seniors who plan to continue their education in a marine-related major that ties into our mission of conservation.

The **Charles N. Kurucz Memorial** is a competitive **need-based** scholarship awards one high school recipient with **\$2,500** for their **freshman year** of college, and grants eligibility for **\$2,500** in their **sophomore year** of college if the student maintains full time student status (24 credit hours or equivalent) with a GPA of 3.0 or greater (or equivalent) for the first year.

Selection of recipients of both the Gordon Gilbert and Charles N. Kurucz will be made by the Scholarship Committee of Friends of Gumbo Limbo. All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply for all scholarships for which they feel they are eligible. The selection committee will evaluate the credentials of each applicant in making the award decisions, and their decision is final. **All awarded scholarships are contingent on completion of 40 volunteer hours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center during the summer of 2018** (optional service or project may be discussed for winner of the Charles N. Kurucz Memorial Scholarship).

Winner Notification

Winners will be notified by a committee member following the interview and final selection. **The scholarship awards will be sent to the college or university where the student is enrolled and credited to the student's account.**

Scholarship Eligibility requirements (for additional Charles N. Kurucz award requirements, see number 5)

1. Candidate must be a 2018 graduating senior who intends to pursue a college degree in a biological, natural science, or other marine-related field deemed relevant to the mission of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.
2. Candidates may self-nominate or may be nominated by a guidance counselor or science teacher, but **MUST** submit a **letter of recommendation** by a science teacher or guidance counselor.
3. A minimum 3.2 GPA overall, and minimum 3.5GPA in science courses completed is required. Candidates will be evaluated on grade point average; honors point average, academic curriculum, extra-

curricular activities, personal reference, a brief essay, and a short interview that will be held on a date in March or April of 2017.

4. The scholarship recipient must provide **40** volunteer hours at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center during the period from April 1 to August 30, 2018 or, for Charles N. Kurucz recipients, complete an agreed upon alternative project.
5. ***Charles N. Kurucz Memorial Scholarship specific requirement:** Applicants for the Charles N. Kurucz scholarship need to either be the first generation in their family to attend college (defined by parents, step-parents and grandparents who did not graduate from college) or eligible for the Free and Reduced Price School Meal (F&RPSM) program. Applicants must provide written confirmation of F&RPSM eligibility from their Guidance Counselor, and/or an affidavit testifying to their first generation college student status.
6. The Committee may elect to interview a short list of candidates at their discretion.
7. Submit all application materials by the application deadline, **February 9, 2018.**

Application

- A. Go to www.gumbolimbo.org/scholarship and follow the instructions.
- B. Download and print out the application, complete the application and mail it to 1801 N. Ocean Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Contact Information

Brandon, Scholarship Administrator, 561.544.8608, or scholarship@gumbolimbo.org, if you have any questions.