OBJECTIVE: The Blanche E. Dean Scholarship program sponsored by the Alabama Wildflower Society (AWS) honors the late Blanche Evans Dean (1892-1974), co-founder of the AWS. Her contributions to the knowledge and appreciation of the natural history of Alabama are legendary. The program is designed to encourage and support students whose academic pursuits are aligned with the purposes of the AWS, including (a) collecting, exchanging, and recording information on native plants, (b) preserving and propagating rare native plants and preserving areas of significant interest because of their native flora, and (c) promoting knowledge, appreciation and use of native plants. The comprehensive purpose of this scholarship program is to encourage scholarly contributions pertaining to Alabama’s natural history like those made by Blanche E. Dean.

Requirements/Eligibility Criteria:

Student:
* Applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited Alabama university (public or private).
* Applicant must be majoring in a biological discipline.
* Applicant must have at least a 3.0 GPA.

Non-Collegiate Students:
* Individuals who are not current students may also be eligible for support. Please contact the Committee Chairman to discuss eligibility for support of a project compatible with the purposes of AWS. However, preference will be given to university students.

Selection of Recipients:

* Recipients will be selected by the Blanche E. Dean Scholarship Committee, a standing committee of the Alabama Wildflower Society.
* Applications will be reviewed based on completeness of application, eligibility requirements, demonstrated interest in Alabama's flora, and appropriateness of research objectives. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
* Priority of consideration will be given to graduate students followed by undergraduate students and then non-collegiate students.
* A candidate is eligible for an award once every 12 months. However, individuals reapplying must include with their applications a report of accomplishments supported previously by the Blanche E. Dean scholarship program.
* Awards of $1500 per recipient is the goal of the AWS Scholarship Committee. From time to time, depending on the economy and AWS funding, partial awards are sometimes provided to lower tiered recipients.
**Documents Needed to Complete Application:**

>>>The following documents must be included in initial submission.

1.) COVER LETTER:

2.) CURRICULUM VITAE: Provide a standard CV as used in academia. Please include the expected term and date of your commencement for the degree you are currently pursuing.

3.) BIOGRAPHY: Include a brief biographical sketch of information regarding your prior experiences not captured by your CV that is relevant to the application. This should not exceed one page.

4.) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Provide a statement describing how you plan to use the monies. This may include a sketch of any current or proposed research activities. This should not exceed three pages.

5.) LETTER OF ENROLLMENT: Provide documentation that you are enrolled in the current academic term. This may consist of a short letter on college/university stationary from either the admissions office, registrar, or department chair.

6.) TRANSCRIPT: Include your most recent college/university transcript verifying you have maintained a "B" (3.0/4.0) or better grade point average. An "unofficial copy" will suffice.

7.) PREVIOUS AWS SUPPORT: If you have previously received a Blanche E. Dean award, please include a summary of accomplishments supported by that award.

>>>The following documents may be sent separately from the initial submission.

8.) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Two letters of recommendation from previous or present professors/supervisors referencing your relevant work are required.

**Deadline:**

Applications (and all pertaining documents) must be postmarked or submitted electronically by November 12th, 2021. Those submitted on a later date will not be considered.

**How to Apply:**

The application and accompanying documentation should be mailed to:

Dr. Brian Keener,  
AWS Scholarship Committee Chairman  
The University of West Alabama  
Station 7  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Livingston, Alabama 35470

Electronic submissions should be directed to: Dr. Brian Keener, [bkeener@uwa.edu]

**Notification of Recipients:**

*Each applicant will be notified of the Committee's decision to fund or not fund his or her application.

*Payments will be made to recipients by the AWS Treasurer & AWS Scholarship Chairman within approximately one month of notifying applicants of awards.