



Ray T. Margo Jr. Memorial Scholarship

On behalf of the Ray T. Margo family and in commemoration of NOPHNRCSE's 25th Anniversary, a one-time \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded in 2021. The Ray T. Margo Jr. Memorial Scholarship is a specially funded scholarship, established by a notable member and his family to encourage new generations of Hispanics to pursue careers in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or Natural Resources Conservation related field of study at an accredited school of higher education.

Ray T. Margo devoted his entire professional career as a public servant to the people of the United States. He received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from Texas A&M University in 1956. His career began with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1956 as a Soil Conservationist. Ray was a distinguished veteran, having served in the U.S. Army. During his time with the army, Ray completed a 16-month tour in Korea.

When Ray returned, he continued to work with the SCS all over South Texas before transferring to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he ultimately retired in 1993 as the State Conservationist.

Ray was recognized for his work with several achievement awards including USDA's Superior Service Award. He represented USDA on several foreign assignments including assignments to Portugal, Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Mexico. While in Mexico, he presented three papers at the first national Soil and Water Conservation Congress in Texcoco, Mexico.

He was active with the National Committee of Boy Scouts of America by serving on the Philmont Scout Ranch Committee. In 1993, he helped establish the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE) and became the organization's first interim president.

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be US Citizen and show proof of U.S. citizenship - copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate only, if your application is selected as a winner.
- Graduating High School students accepted to an accredited college or university and registered students with at least one full academic year remaining before completing undergraduate education. Demonstrate integrity, ability, and competence in work. Graduate students are not eligible for this scholarship.
- Show interest in pursuing a career in Natural Resources Conservation.
- Have a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.0 scale.

Submit a complete application package which includes; application form and requested documentation.

Application must be submitted or postmarked by: **Friday, June 18th 2021.**

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL HISPANIC
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

Ray T. Margo Jr. Memorial Scholarship

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) provides scholarships to deserving Hispanic students that wish to pursue or are pursuing a bachelor's degree in a Natural Resources or a Natural Resources Conservation-related field of study at an accredited four-year institution.

To Apply ONLINE: download the application form at:

<http://www.nophnrcse.org/index.php/scholarships/62-scholarshipsmain>. Please, complete, sign, scan and submit the digital application with all required documents to the following email address: scholarships@nophnrcse.org. For questions, request to mail the application, or additional information, please contact:

Teddy Moreno-Santos Phone: or email to: Scholarships@nophnrcse.org

Completed application package must be postmarked or emailed by Friday, June 18th 2021.

Incomplete or late applications will not be evaluated.

Choose one: Male Female

Name: _____

Permanent Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

Mailing Address (If different from above): _____

Telephone: _____ Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr): _____

Birthplace (State and Country): _____

Email: _____

Name and address of High School or College you are currently attending:

Student Number (not Social Security number, if known): _____

Expected Year of graduation: _____ Overall GPA (on a 4.0 scale): _____

Concentration/Major in: _____

How did you receive this application? _____

Have you won a NOPHNRCSE or Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship? Yes, what year? _____
No

Name: _____

The following items must be submitted along with this signed application form. Failure to submit a complete Ray T. Margo Jr. Memorial Scholarship Application package will result in you forfeiting any opportunity to be selected for this Scholarship.

The following items constitute a complete Ray T. Margo Jr. Memorial Scholarship Application package:

1. Submit this completed application with your signature;
2. Submit a personal statement of 350 to 500 words in length (double-spaced) in English. Please include information such as personal background, name of school(s) you plan to attend or are attending, personal and career goals, extracurricular activities, financial need and your special interest in pursuing a conservation career in natural resources such as; soil science, agronomy, soil conservation, range science or engineering. You may also include other information that you feel is important (remember not to exceed 500 words);
3. Submit a copy of an official or certified high school or college transcript; non-official digital documents will not be accepted;
4. Submit two letters of recommendation in English from a High School teacher(s)/counselor(s), College professor(s) employer or supervisor.
5. Graduating high school applicants, submit a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college you plan to attend.

** Note: Receipt of a NOPHNRCSE Scholarship does not constitute a guarantee of future employment with the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other federal agency.

Certification:

I certify that all the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Providing false information may result in the recall of any scholarship granted or in the forfeiture of any scholarship awarded.

I am aware that any scholarship awarded by NOPHNRCSE will be disbursed through my University Financial Aid Office. If I am selected to receive a NOPHNRCSE Scholarship, I will utilize the NOPHNRCSE award toward expenses related to my college attendance. I also understand I can receive this award only one time.

I understand that proof of college enrollment will be required if selected and that I must notify my University Financial Aid Office and NOPHNRCSE of any changes to my enrollment status. I further understand that changes to my enrollment status may result in the cancellation of any award provided. I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to keep my institution's Financial Aid Office and NOPHNRCSE informed of all address changes.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to submit a complete application package to NOPHNRCSE in compliance with the posted deadline. Incomplete or late application materials will disqualify my

scholarship application package and I will not be considered for any award. All application materials become the property of NOPHNCSE. I hereby give NOPHNCSE permission to share this information for the purpose of recruitment, public relations, or possible employment.

I hereby certify that I have read the application information and guidelines, as well as this Certification, and that I understand and accept all the conditions specified. Failure to sign this Certification will result in my ineligibility for this Scholarship Award.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees Scholarship Program 2021 NOPHNRCSE Information and Guidelines

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) was first organized in 1933, as the Soil Erosion Service and was later known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, USDA went through reorganization and the Agency's name became the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Agency's purpose has always been, and continues to be, the promotion of the conservation and wise use of our country's natural resources. USDA-NRCS employees possess backgrounds in a variety of disciplines that include agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, civil engineering, computer science, crops science, hydrology, range science, soil science, wildlife science, financial management and several other disciplines.

NRCS accomplishes its conservation goals by drawing upon the various sciences and conservation disciplines to help private landowners conserve their soil, natural resources and water and air resources. NRCS employees and private land users assess the land's capabilities and resources along with the existing conservation problems and opportunities. NRCS employees then work closely with agricultural producers and landowners to assist them in developing conservation plans and with the implementation of conservation practices while achieving their production goals and objectives. Through the implementation of conservation practices, the overall quality of life within a watershed and across our country is improved.

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) was established as a Professional Society of Natural Resources Conservation Service employee. NOPHNRCSE promotes the belief that Hispanics can and should fill an existing, invaluable void in the protection of our country's natural resources and the wise use of our agricultural and recreational private lands. NOPHNRCSE was created to assist the USDA-NRCS with its delivery of program information and program benefits to minority and non-minority communities; to showcase the value that Hispanics bring to the USDA-NRCS; to demonstrate the role of Hispanics in a diverse, multi-cultural workforce; and to serve as a strong link between the USDA-NRCS and the Hispanic community.

NOPHNRCSE was organized to augment the outreach programs of USDA and NRCS, and to enhance USDA Program Delivery. Internally, NOPHNRCSE has vowed to assist USDA-NRCS achieve a multicultural workforce and to assist with the recruitment and professional development of quality Natural Resources Conservation Service Hispanic employees.

With this Scholarship Program, NOPHNRCSE achieves one of its founding goals, "to develop and establish a NOPHNRCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund." NOPHNRCSE intends to support Hispanics goals of higher education and to encourage Hispanics to become protectors of our country's natural resources through this Scholarship and Endowment Fund Program.

NOPHNRCSE wishes to provide scholarships to deserving Hispanic students who wish to pursue, are currently enrolled in, or are admitted to an accredited four-year institution with the intent of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural resources field or a natural resources conservation-related field of study.

Candidates elected to receive the 2021 NOPHNRCSE Scholarship will be selected based on academic achievement, personal strengths, demonstrated leadership abilities, and career goals. NOPHNRCSE will accept Scholarship Applications postmarked by **Friday, June 18th 2021**.

The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship Committee will determine the 2021 Ray T. Margo Scholarship recipients utilizing established selection criteria. Each applicant will be evaluated based on their complete Scholarship Application package that must include the items above. The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship Committee is organized and administered by the NOPHNRCSE National Council.

To learn more about NOPHNRCSE or USDA-NRCS please explore our web pages at <http://www.nophnrcse.org> or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, respectively.