

**Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute**  
*A 9-Month Program for All People Involved with Virginia’s Environment*

*Six 3-Day Workshop Sessions - September 2025 – June 2026*

**Applications due June 6, 2025 by 5:00PM**

## What is VNRLI?

## The Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute is a professional development program for leaders confronted with Virginia’s most pressing natural resource issues who seek new skills in conflict resolution and collaborative problem solving. Over 9 months, Fellows will explore a variety of leadership models, build conflict competency, expand facilitation skills, environmental justice, and more! A sample curriculum can be found on the VNRLI Website: <https://vnrli.ien.virginia.edu/sample-curriculum>.

## Who is this for?

## VNRLI has an extensive alumni network of over 650 individuals. Participants of this program include people from the private sector whose work addresses environmental issues; regulators and others working in the public sector at the local, state, and federal levels; environmental activists and advocates; those making a living from the land and water; community members; Cooperative Extension agents; Virginia Indian Tribes; and others who wish to improve their collaboration and conflict competencies, their understanding of Virginia’s environmental issues, and widen their networks of people with allied interests.

## Program Dates & Attendance

## An important element of the VNRLI program is the relationship building and comradery that develops within each cohort. To graduate from the course Fellows must attend all six sessions. While we understand that life happens, and unexpected absences may occur, if you wish to receive a certificate of completion you may not miss more than one session in entirety *or*three separate days out of the 18 days, overall. Fellows are able to make up any sessions in the following year, and alumni are able to continue their learning and attend sessions in other years without charge as well. Please block the dates listed below on your calendar when submitting your application, to prevent conflicts arising for your attendance.

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| --- |
| **Accepted Fellows Information Session**: August 27, 2025 -- 2-3pm (Zoom)  **Session 1:** September 24-26, 2025 – TBD **Session 4:** March 11-13, 2026 – Harrisonburg  **Session 2:** November 12-14, 2025 – Virginia Beach  **Session 5:** April 22-24, 2026 – Southwest VA  **Session 3:** January 14-16, 2026 – Petersburg **Session 6:** June 10-12, 2026 Charlottesville |

## Session Schedule

Sessions typically begin on Wednesday mornings and end Friday by midday. Start/end times are subject to change dependent on the session. Please note that at Session 5 in April, Fellows arrive on Tuesday evening.

**Program Fees & Payment Schedule**

#### The program fee of $3,750 includes at least one lunch and at least one dinner at each session. It does not include additional meals, lodging, or personal travel. The program uses the University of Virginia’s travel rate when arranging lodging and meals.

#### Applicants will be notified of admission decisions no later than July 18, 2025. If you are accepted, a non-refundable registration deposit of $500 is due by August 15, 2025, and the remainder of the program fee is due by September 12, 2025. Payment can be made by check, wire transfer, or credit card.

**Financial Assistance**

A limited number of need-based scholarships are available to cover the program fee. In some circumstances, VNRLI may be able to offer support for lodging and mileage. VNRLI recognizes that our society needs leaders who have a deep understanding of the impacts and opportunities of pressing natural resources, social, and economic challenges. We seek to invest in the careers of exceptional, passionate leaders from all backgrounds and ensure that our program reflects the geographic, demographic, and sector diversity of our state.

If you wish to be considered for a scholarship, please attach a letter indicating your need for financial assistance and the amount and type of assistance (tuition, lodging, mileage, etc.) you are requesting. All requests for assistance are confidential.

|  |
| --- |
| **Applications**  Completed applications, including **one recommendation**, are due by June 6, 2025 at 5:00PM, and can be emailed to Blair Blanchette at [blair.blanchette@virginia.edu](mailto:Blair.Blanchette@virginia.edu) or mailed to VNRLI at PO Box 400179 Charlottesville, VA 22904. Applications and more information can be found at <http://vnrli.ien.virginia.edu.>  For questions, please contact Blair Blanchette, blair.blanchette@virginia.edu |

**VNRLI is a partnership of:**

Institute for Engagement & Negotiation at the University of Virginia

Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Tech

Virginia Department of Forestry

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

**Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute**

Applications due by June 6, 2025 by 5:00PM

### Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing address (if you are accepted, VNRLI will send program materials to this address):

**Phone (work)**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. **Phone (cell)**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred email address: Circle (Work) or (Personal)

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Backup email address**: Circle (Work) or (Personal)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*We request both work and personal email addresses so that we can still reach you in the event that you change jobs but will only use your preferred address for VNRLI communication.*

**Optional Information:**

### Age: Gender Identity: Ethnicity:

### Pronouns:

### *Pronouns are the part of speech used to refer to someone in the third person. We want to know how to respectfully refer to you!*

**Education -** Please include name of the school, graduation year, and degree obtained.

High School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Current Employment

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Present Responsibilities:

**Additional Employment History** (please include employer name, position held, and dates of employment)

# Organizations & Activities

# *We invite you to write as much or as little as you would like in this space but encourage you to answer* *thoughtfully as this assists us in evaluating your application.*

### What is the nature of your involvement (personal and/or professional) with natural resources or the environment?

### What do you feel is your greatest responsibility, skill, or achievement to date in your professional or personal life?

What are your future career and/or community service goals?

### Is there anything you feel is important for us to know about you that hasn’t been captured by these questions?

**VNRLI Goals**

# *We invite you to write as much or as little as you would like in this space but encourage you to answer* *thoughtfully as this assists us in evaluating your application.*

What do you hope to achieve from your experience in the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute?

An important component of VNRLI is the application of skills learned in the sessions. Describe how you hope to apply these skills within your organization, groups, community, home, etc.

**Please check box if you have you previously applied to VNRLI.**

**Participation Agreement**

Who will pay your registration? Employer Yourself Other (please specify)

Who will pay for your food/lodging? Employer Yourself Other (please specify)

(Please initial each of the following statements)

\_\_ I understand the goals and objectives of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. If selected to participate, I or my employer will pay a registration deposit of $500 by August 15, 2025. Also, I or my employer will pay the remainder of the program fee by September 12, 2025.

\_\_ I understand that participation requires attendance at all six VNRLI sessions, and that I may not be able to continue in the program if I miss more than one full session or three separate days out of the 18 days, overall.

\_\_ I understand that, if accepted, the program represents a commitment to myself and to the cohort. I will attend the sessions and participate fully, demonstrating respect for myself, the other participants, and the faculty team.

Applicant’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that participating the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute includes 18 days of training over 9 months, and I approve of my employee’s absence if selected to participate:

Employer’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer’s title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer’s signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute

### Recommendation due by June 6, 2025

Name of Applicant

**For the Applicant**

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and its amendments guarantee students access to educational records concerning them. Applicants are permitted to waive their rights of access to recommendations. The following signed statement indicates the wish of the applicant regarding this recommendation.

I waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation.

I do not waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation.

Signed Date

**To the Recommender**

The person whose name appears above is applying for admission to the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. The VNRLI seeks applicants who are, or who possess the ability to become, leaders within their organizations and communities. Your candid evaluation will inform our admission decision. Please feel free to attach a separate letter with your answers to the questions below.

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?
2. Please use the space below to make statements on the applicant's qualifications for admission to a leadership program. Include his/her potential for becoming a leader within his/her organization, profession, or community, as well as an assessment of the applicant's major strengths and leadership skills

Using the table below, please compare the applicant with others you have known.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Outstanding (Top 10%) | Very Good (Top 20%) | Good  (Top Third) | Average (Middle Third) | Below Average (Bottom Third) | No Opportunity To Observe |
| Leadership |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to work well with others |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Self-confidence |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Motivation and drive |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Personal Integrity |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oral communication Skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Written communication Skills |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creativity and Imagination |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Please select a box below that reflects how strongly you recommend, or do not recommend, this person for the VNRLI:

Strongly recommend Recommend with some reservation

Recommend Do not recommend

*Additional information regarding your recommendation:*

Signature Date

Name

Title Organization

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City State Phone

**Recommendations are due by June 6, 2025, and can be submitted via email to Blair Blanchette at** [**blair.blanchette@virginia.edu**](mailto:blair.blanchette@virginia.edu) **or mailed to Box 400179, Charlottesville, VA 22904.**