



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Columbia and Greene Counties

Agroforestry Resource Center
6055 Route 23
Acra, NY 12405
518.622.9820
columbiagreene@cornell.edu
www.cceecolumbiagreene.org

Paul and Maria Morra Scholarship Trust 2026

The purpose of this scholarship trust is to honor the lives of Paul and Maria Morra (trust benefactors) and their commitment to preserving the natural resources of our region.

Complete application packet **must be received by Monday, May 11, 2026**. Scholarship selection is not based solely on academic standing but greater emphasis is placed on the interest and motivation of the student to excel in their chosen field of study. Recipients are chosen by a selection committee whose recommendations are approved by the CCE Board of Directors and their decision is final. This year we anticipate two scholarships to be awarded for \$3,500 each. The scholarship check will be sent directly to the academic institution upon receipt of a copy of the student's tuition bill and college mailing address.

Eligibility:

- A current resident of Columbia County or Greene County
- Enrolled in an accredited academic institution including public colleges, private colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools
- Pursuing further academic work beyond high school in the field of horticulture, agriculture, forestry or natural resources
- Excluded from applying are: past Morra Scholarship recipients

Application Packet must include:

- Attached cover sheet
- One 500 word essay (your own word document)
- Two letters of recommendation (references complete attached form and send directly to CCE)
- Most recent high school or college transcript

Deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026

Send complete Application Packet to: Angela Tallarico
Cornell Cooperative Extension
6055 Route 23
Acra, NY 12405

Or email amt18@cornell.edu

Questions? Contact: Angela Tallarico
amt18@cornell.edu
(518)622-9820 ext. 101

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Paul and Maria Morra Scholarship Trust Application

1) Name:

2) Mailing Address:

3) Phone Number:

4) Email:

5) Name(s) Parent/Guardian:

6) High Schools/Colleges attended. Include dates:

7) List up to three schools/programs, in order of preference, that you plan/wish to attend. Include city, state, major course of study and note if you have been accepted:

8) List your most significant involvement in work, community programs, volunteer activities, and awards. Include up to ten, with dates for each:

9) Personal Essay: Attach a typed and double-spaced essay, no more than 500 words, on the following topic:
Describe your plans for the future and what experiences have influenced your decision to pursue a career in the field of horticulture, agriculture, forestry or natural resources.

10) Two Recommendations:

- One from a teacher/guidance counselor who can speak to your academic success.
- One from an employer, clergy, community leader, or a person other than a family member, who is familiar with your skills and abilities.

Please provide the recommendation form to each individual and request it be returned directly by them to Angela Tallarico amt18@cornell.edu or mailed directly to the address on the next page.

11) Certification: I certify that the information contained herein is correct and truthfully reflects my personal and academic background and records. I agree that if any information is found to be inaccurate in any way, my application will become null and void.

Applicant signature

Date

Application deadline is Monday, May 11, 2026. Mail completed application/forms to: Angela Tallarico, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405 or email amt18@cornell.edu

Questions? Call 518-622-9820 x101

Paul and Maria Morra Scholarship Trust Reference Form

I wish to endorse _____ as an applicant for Paul and Maria Morra Scholarship Trust.

I have known the applicant for _____ years.

My relationship to the applicants is/was:

Please write a short paragraph supporting your endorsement of the applicant. Mention traits, experiences or characteristics you are familiar with. You may also share information about goals, behaviors or relationships that support the candidate's application for this scholarship. If possible, include your thoughts and knowledge of this applicant as related to the scholarship's field of study in agriculture, forestry, horticulture or natural resources.

Print Name

Title if applicable

Signature

Date

Please return this reference form by May 11, 2026 in a sealed envelope with your name written across the seal, to Angela Tallarico, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 6055 Route 23, Acra, NY 12405 or email amt18@cornell.edu.

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