



HANDBOOK

JAMES FARMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

| University of Mary Washington |

“Our responsibility is not merely to provide access to knowledge; we must produce educated people.”- James L. Farmer

James Farmer Scholars Program Handbook

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

James Farmer Scholars Program Handbook	2
Who Is James Farmer?	3
James Farmer Scholars Program Information	4
Mission Statement	4
Program Overview.....	4
Objectives	5
Program Design.....	6
Scholar Selection.....	6
Scholar Vacancies	6
Academic Year	6
Saturday Session Guidelines & Polices.....	7
Summer Program.....	8
SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES.....	8
Academic Performance.....	8
Scholarly Behavior	8
Other Responsibilities	9
Scholar Evaluation.....	10
PARENT COUNCILS.....	10
Agreement between UMW & Scholars and their Families	11
Program Personnel.....	13
2018 - 2019 James Farmer Scholars School Sponsors	14
James Farmer Scholar Contract.....	15

Who Is James Farmer?

James Farmer, a former resident of Spotsylvania County, was born in Marshall, Texas on January 12, 1920. Mr. Farmer earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from Wiley College in 1938 and received the Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree from the Howard University School of Religion in 1941. He received numerous honorary degrees including degrees from Butler University, Lake Forest College, the University of Rhode Island, Adelphi University as well as a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Mary Washington College.

James Farmer published nearly a hundred articles in various national magazines, political science journals, newspapers, and law journals. He is the author of two books, Freedom When, published in 1965, and Lay Bare the Heart: An Autobiography of the Civil Rights Movement, published in 1985.

James Farmer retired from Mary Washington College as Distinguished College Professor of History and American Studies in 1998. Other positions previously held by Mr. Farmer include serving as the Virginia Commonwealth Professor of History at Mary Washington College, teaching for the College of Education at New York University, serving as Professor of Social Welfare at Lincoln University, and holding a Distinguished Professorship at Antioch University.

James Farmer was a distinguished Civil Rights leader, who in 1942 established The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He served as the National Director of CORE from 1961 to 1966. In May 1987, Mr. Farmer was presented the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award at the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. On January 15, 1998, President Bill Clinton presented Dr. Farmer the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was also honored with the Excellence in Leadership Award by Virginia Power in January 1999. On July 9, 1999, Dr. Farmer died peacefully at Mary Washington Hospital.

James Farmer Scholars Program Information

*“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?’”
Martin Luther King Jr.*

Mission Statement

The mission of the James Farmer Scholars Program is to increase the number of underrepresented who have the academic potential to attempt and succeed in college.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”
Nelson Mandela*

Program Overview

In 1987, Mary Washington College established the James Farmer Scholars Program, named for the noted civil rights leader, James Farmer. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of underrepresented youth from four local school divisions who, beginning in middle school, pursue a college preparatory program, succeed in it, and enroll in college. The focus of the program is not solely to recruit students for the University of Mary Washington, but to increase opportunities for underrepresented American students to enroll in and graduate from any institution of higher education, particularly public institutions in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Each year, twelve students are selected and designated James Farmer Scholars from each of four school divisions—Caroline, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Westmoreland. Up to six alternates may be selected from each school division each year. The University of Mary Washington funds the program, and each school division provides remuneration for school sponsors and transportation costs incurred by the Scholars for after-school meetings and visits to the University of Mary Washington. A director administers the program, and oversight for the program rests with the James Farmer Scholars Board comprised of college faculty/administrators and local school administrators and community associates.

Objectives

1. To provide an academic enrichment program for students beginning in 7th grade.
2. To encourage leadership development and positive self-images.
3. To expose students to a variety of cultural and recreational activities.
4. To increase an awareness of the community, programs, leaders and resources.
5. To guide students in the selection of a community service project for life long participation
6. To provide tutoring to scholars when available to assist scholars in their academic progress.
7. To expose scholars to a various college and universities in the Commonwealth.
8. To provide guidance in selecting courses to prepare for college selection.
9. To expose scholars to various careers and occupational choices. Additional exposure to fields underrepresented by minorities.
10. To strengthen parental involvement through the school and the community.
11. To provide enrichment in writing and math skills.
12. To expose scholars to college life at UMW through specific programs and summer residential programs.
13. To provide courses in effective study skills, note-taking, test taking and time management.
14. *To expose students to preparatory courses for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude test (PSAT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
15. To provide guidance on AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment selection.
16. To initiate the college admissions process by:
 - Identifying a course of study
 - Researching the admissions requirements for selected institutions
 - Researching scholarships and financial aid opportunities
17. To assist students in the identification of selected colleges, and the submissions of applications.

Program Design

The program consists of two components: the academic year and the summer program. During the academic year scholars will meet with school sponsors and up to seven times a year at the University of Mary Washington.

Scholar enrichment will be facilitated through meetings that will take place at the University of Mary Washington on various Saturdays throughout the year. The workshops provided at these Saturday Sessions will include classes to strengthen and/or reinforce skills in academic areas, leadership development, social development, college preparation and community involvement. The sessions will also include cultural and/or recreational activities. Invited guest will provide presentations to scholars regarding various topics.

Scholar Selection

12 scholars and up to 6 alternates from each county (Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Westmoreland and Caroline) will be selected each year from the eligible applicant pool. Scholars are selected based on a comprehensive review of their academic background and academic capability. Vacant seats not filled through the process for new scholars will be distributed at the discretion of the program director.

Scholar Vacancies

Scholar Vacancies will be filled by the county in which the vacancy exists. Alternates will be given priority in fulfilling vacant spots in the program. If alternates are not available, a county may fill the spot with a student outside of the grade in which the vacancy exists. The county may also choose to revisit the recruitment process to fill an open spot. Vacancies that are filled outside of the original open grade should not push the total capacity to more than 15 scholars in the grade to which the scholar is being added. The county in which the vacancy exist will have the final selection in who resumes the open spot.

Academic Year

During the school year, Scholars will meet with their school sponsors as required by the local County policies. To remain in good standing, scholars will need to attend all required school meetings or make-up sessions with their school sponsors.

Saturday Program Meeting Dates:

October 6th
November 18th
January 27th
February 24th
March 31st
April 21st

A typical Saturday Session schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Arrival / Announcements
9:40-12:30 p.m.	Interdisciplinary Classes
10:50 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Rotating Lunches
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Classes, Activities or Workshops
2:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and dismissal

Saturday Session Guidelines & Policies

Drop-off: Scholars should be dropped off at Monroe Hall in the traffic circle between 8:30 am and 8:50 am. Scholars should report to Monroe 116 at drop off with their Eagle One Cards read to be scanned.

Pick-Up: Scholars can be picked-up outside of Monroe Hall beginning at 2 p.m. Parents/ Guardians should line up around the traffic circle and scholars will be sent to the cars.

Pick-Up Considerations: Early Pick-ups will need to be checked out by the JFS Staff. A parent/ guardian will need to come inside for pick-up. If you scholar will be using a ride share service (Uber/Lyft, etc.) please communicate this to the JFS Staff ASAP. Please note that we will ask for the driver information as well as the drop off location to verify that the scholar has arrived safely.

Attendance: Scholars should attend 4 of the 6 sessions hosted by the University of Mary Washington. All absences should be reported to jamesfarmerscholarsprogram@gmail.com and to the school sponsor.

Lunch: Scholars should bring a packed lunch for the Saturday Sessions. There is limited access to vending machines or places to purchase food. If lunch is being dropped off for a scholar, please check-in with JFS staff prior to delivering the food. Food should only be delivered by a parent or guardian. Scholars are not to leave the premises for lunch.

Behavior: Scholars will be provided *one warning* about their behavior at Saturday Sessions. After the first warning, the scholar's parents will be called and they will be asked to leave the session. The scholar will also be placed on probation. The scholar will be dismissed following the second incident.

Additional Information: Scholars should bring pencil and paper to all sessions as well as any additional required items such as books, poster board, etc. Also, the JFS program is borrowing the spaces that are used on campus. As such, scholars are asked to remain respectful of all times and to keep remove trash/ excess waste from any space we are using.

Summer Program

The summer component of the James Farmer Scholars Program is a residential program in which Scholars live in the University of Mary Washington residence halls, take enrichment courses, and enjoy nightly social and educational activities. There is a fee for the summer component, which covers room and board, food and activities. A deposit will be due to reserve a spot. All scholars invited to attend the summer program will be rated Outstanding or Satisfactory. Dates for the summer program will be announced at the start of the 2019 year. Space for attendance at this event is limited.

SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is an honor and a privilege to be a James Farmer Scholar. To be a Scholar is to accept responsibility to maintain appropriate attitude, behavior, and academic performance worthy of the designation, James Farmer Scholar.

Academic Performance

Exemplary Status	A Scholar must maintain a A/B+ (3.5-4.0) average with no grade lower than a B.
Good Standing Status	A Scholar must maintain at least a B (3.0-3.4) average with no grade lower than a B.
Probationary Status	A Scholar who receives a grade lower than a 3.0 GPA is on probation.

A Scholar who does not demonstrate progress toward achieving good standing will be removed from the program. Demonstrated progress will be determined on a case by case basis via evaluation of the student record by program administration and the school sponsor.

Scholarly Behavior

Scholar Participation

A Scholar must attend school regularly and on time. A Scholar who is consistently tardy or absent from school must establish a schedule for improvement with the School Sponsor. Regular unexcused absences from school may result in termination from the JFS program.

Scholars are expected to attend school regularly, attend after school sessions, Saturday sessions and special designated programs. Each Scholar is required to attend 4 of the 6 Saturday sessions. Scholars who do not make a compelling effort to participate in the program will be removed from the program.

Scholar participation in field trips will be based on their evaluations. Scholars must be in good standing to participate in any field trips hosted by the JFS program. It is very important that scholars attend field trips when they sign-up. If a scholar does not attend a field trip they signed up for, they will be barred from attendance on future trips.

Scholar Behavior:

A Scholar must assume responsibility for appropriate behavior at school, at school activities, and at program activities. A Scholar who is placed on suspension (in-school or out of school) will be removed from the program. Scholars receiving disciplinary referrals will be evaluated on a case by case basis and may be removed from the program pending the nature of the evaluation.

Scholars who violate any of the program expectations or standards are subject to placement on probation or dismissal based on the severity of the violation to be determined by the program director.

Other Responsibilities

A Scholar must exemplify the following characteristics: pride, honor, respect, and dignity.

A Scholar should be: an independent thinker, positive, and resist negative influence and pressure.

A Scholar must be willing to assist others when the need arises.

A Scholar must become knowledgeable of his/her heritage and be willing to share it with others.

A Scholar must be devoted to learning: show initiative, persevere, and accept challenges.

A Scholar must exemplify scholarly conduct in class: actively and meaningfully participate, turn in all assignments on time, and bring only appropriate materials to class.

A Scholar must be prompt for class, after-school sessions, and Saturday instructional meetings.

A Scholar must renew his/her commitment to the program annually.

Scholar Evaluation

In March, each scholar will be evaluated on their performance throughout the academic year. This evaluation will be based on behavior, attendance, community engagement, and academic achievement. Scholars will be placed in one of the following categories:

Outstanding, Satisfactory, Probation, or Dismissal. Students reaching the Outstanding Scholar Status will be recognized for their achievement in the program.

Scholars will also undergo informal evaluation throughout the year based on their grades and behavior. Status updates will be provided at the end of grading periods and if any disciplinary actions are sanctioned throughout the year. A scholar's status in the program may change at any time based on meeting the program's criteria.

Though the evaluation provides a ranking for the scholar, the evaluation status may be updated at any time given a change in circumstances for the scholar. Scholar participation in the program is at the discretion of the program administration and scholars are not guaranteed continued participation in the program.

PARENT COUNCILS

The Parent Council is an organization similar to the Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) found in many public school systems. Each of the four Parent Councils has its own officers, meeting schedule, and programs. Each Parent Council will select two representatives to form an Executive Committee to schedule meetings, activities and fund raising endeavors to benefit the goals of the James Farmer Scholars Program.

Membership in the James Farmer Parent Council is open not only to all parents who have children currently enrolled in the Program, but also to parents of students who have completed the program. A small fee is required each year by the Parent Council to support scholarships and activities for the scholars.

ALL PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARENT COUNCILS.

Agreement between UMW & Scholars and their Families

James Farmer Scholars Expectations:

1. To pursue a college-preparatory curriculum selected with the help of parents/guardians and guidance counselors.
2. To maintain a 3.0 GPA or better.
3. To participate in the activities of the James Farmer Scholars Program.
4. To accept the responsibilities of a James Farmer Scholar in attitude and behavior, including dedication to studies and to community involvement.
5. To abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by the James Farmer Scholars Director and Executive Board members at all sessions, events, activities, and social gatherings.
6. To complete all required tasks and assignments related to the James Farmer Scholars program.

Parent/Guardian Expectations:

1. To encourage my scholar to meet the expectations set forth by the James Farmer Scholars program. Including providing advice and counsel to my scholar in regard to his or her behavior, attitude, education, and future to the best of my ability.
2. To encourage my scholar to complete homework, to study for tests, and to be prepared in all subjects and to provide a place and favorable conditions for my scholar to study.
3. To monitor my scholar's attendance at school and at James Farmer Scholars Program activities as well as any concerns with behavior.
4. To support the educational programs in which my scholar participates by attending school activities for parents and James Farmer Scholars Program events for parents.
5. To provide accurate contact information for the purpose of communication with the sponsors and college regarding program information

UMW and Participating Schools Expectations:

1. To provide, throughout the pre-college years, personal, individual guidance and academic counseling for each James Farmer Scholar.
2. To provide programming that brings James Farmer Scholars to the University Mary Washington campus and makes available to them the special facilities found there.
3. To advise and assist Scholars and their parents or guardians in seeking admission to colleges, including the completion of applications and financial aid forms.
4. To give special consideration to any James Farmer Scholar who applies for admission to University of Mary Washington, admitting all Scholars whose records, recommendations, and test scores indicate they can succeed academically at the College, and placing them in the highest possible priority for financial aid support.
5. Provide continued support to scholars attending the University of Mary Washington by offering entrance into the Student Transition Program (STP) as well as student employment opportunities, academic advising, coaching and mentoring.

Additional Parent/ Guardian Expectations

- Providing or arranging reliable transportation to and from the University of Mary Washington for Saturday Sessions, Programs, Field Trips, Special Activities, etc.
- Ensuring lunch is provided when requested
- Communicating absences from required events by way of the James Farmer Scholars email address and to the school sponsor
- Being on time for both drop-off and pick-ups for James Farmer Scholar Activities
- Communicating any changes regarding pick-up's or drop-offs

Program Personnel

Representatives from University of Mary Washington

Mrs. Bianca S. Hightower, M.Ed, Assistant Director for Career and Professional Development & Director, James Farmer Scholars Program

Ms. India Jones, Program Coordinator, James Farmer Scholars Program

Dr. Janet Asper, Associate Professor of Chemistry – Caroline County

Community Representatives

Mr. Xavier Richardson, Chairperson of the James Farmer Scholar Program – Fredericksburg County

Representative Caroline Schools

Mrs. Angela Wright, Principal; Caroline Middle School – Caroline County

Representative Spotsylvania County Schools

Mr. Rod Goode, Assistant Principal; Riverbend High School – Spotsylvania County

Representative Fredericksburg City Schools

Ms. Marci Catlett, Deputy Superintendent for Fredericksburg City Public Schools

Representative Westmoreland County Schools

Mrs. Joyce Clayton, General Supervisor of Westmoreland County Schools

2018 - 2019 James Farmer Scholars School Sponsors

Fredericksburg City Schools

Walker Grant Middle School - Mrs. Demetrice Silver

James Monroe High School - Mrs. Demetrice Silver

Caroline County Schools

Caroline Middle School - Ms. Phyllis Lamar

Caroline High School – Ms. Tia Courtney

Westmoreland County

Montross Middle School - Ms. Leigh-Ann Crim

Washington & Lee High School - Mrs. Joan Weldon

Spotsylvania County

County Coordinators- Mr. Roderick Goode & Ms. Ayesha Qasimi

Post Oak Middle School –Ms. Evangerline Wormley

Ni River Middle School – Ms. Helen Kenney

Freedom Middle School – Ms. Lillian Williams

Thornburg Middle School – Ms. Deborah McMullen

Battlefield Middle School - Ms. Rose Marie McGill

Chancellor Middle School - Ms. Renee Beverly

Spotsylvania Middle School – Mr. William Nave

Chancellor High School - Ms. Andrea Chew

Courtland High School - Ms. Vicki Clinkscales

Spotsylvania High School – Ms. Doris Buzzell, Ms. Rachel Bentley-Goode

Massaponax High School – Ms. Yolanda Ashlock

Riverbend High School – Ms. Felicia Johnson

James Farmer Scholar Contract

As a James Farmer Scholar, I promise:

1. To pursue a college-preparatory curriculum selected with the help of parents/guardians and guidance counselors.
2. To maintain a 3.0 GPA or better.
3. To participate in the activities of the James Farmer Scholars Program.
4. To accept the responsibilities of a James Farmer Scholar in attitude and behavior, including dedication to studies and to community involvement.
5. To abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by the James Farmer Scholars Director and Executive Board members at all sessions, events, activities, and social gatherings.
6. To complete all required tasks and assignments related to the James Farmer Scholars program.

Scholar Signature

Date

Scholar Name (printed)

Grade/ County