



Coach Vince Dooley Student Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: June 1

Program Overview

Established in 2023 to honor Coach Vince Dooley of the University of Georgia, this scholarship celebrates the power of lifelong learning and the unexpected paths that lead to horticulture. After an extraordinary career in athletics and leadership, Coach Dooley discovered a deep passion for plants later in life. His interest was sparked through coursework with renowned horticulturists Dr. Michael Dirr and Dr. Allan Armitage, whose teaching ignited his curiosity and appreciation for plant science and garden design.

Coach Dooley embraced horticulture with the same discipline, enthusiasm, and commitment that defined his coaching career. He became an avid home gardener and dedicated plant collector, developing a particular love for woody plants and the educational role gardens play in shaping thoughtful, observant stewards of the land. His genuine excitement for learning resonated widely, demonstrating that horticulture is accessible, meaningful, and transformative at any stage of life.

This all-inclusive annual scholarship honors Coach Dooley's legacy by supporting students within the International Plant Production Society community. The award provides access to education, networking, and professional opportunities, inspiring recipients to pursue horticulture with curiosity, humility, and passion, values Coach Dooley embodied throughout his life.

Program Eligibility

- Juniors or Seniors enrolled in 2- or 4-year agriculture science or horticulture programs
 - Graduate students enrolled in horticulture or related field
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Award Details

- Full registration for the IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting
 - Travel expenses (actual ECONOMY flight cost or mileage reimbursement)
 - \$250 spending money
 - Awardee will share a room with other scholarship winners
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Responsibilities

- Bring a resume to conference.
 - Introduce yourself during the Question Box session.
 - Explain why you are a strong candidate for employment in the field.
 - Interview with IPPS Communication Director for event promotions.
 - Submit a bio and photograph for promotional use.
 - Attend the opening introductions and awards ceremony.
 - Participating in an interview with the IPPS Communications Director for promotional purposes
 - Submit a professional biography (200 words) and a high-resolution photograph
 - Attend all functions at the hosting region event, including the opening remarks and awards ceremony where the delegate will be introduced
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Application Instructions

To be considered, applicants must submit the following:

1. Completed application form
 2. 200-word professional biography and high-resolution photograph
 3. One letter of recommendation from:
 - A current or former professor, or a professional supervisor
 4. Required essay responses (see below)
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Applicant Information

Full Name:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Email:

Education

Institution Name:
Institution Address:
Degree or Certificate Earned:
Dates Attended:

☐ If not completed, please indicate highest level achieved:

Employment Experience

Please list your most recent position

Employer / Organization:
Dates of Employment:
Position Title:
Brief Description of Responsibilities:

Professional References

Please attach one educational or professional reference (no family members).
Include name, title, organization, email address, and phone number.

Required Essay Responses

(Maximum 400 words total; may be submitted as a single document)

1. Purpose and Impact

Explain why attending the upcoming IPPS Annual Meeting is important at this stage of

your education or career. Describe how participation will support your professional development and engagement within the horticulture industry.

2. **Contribution and Learning**

What knowledge, skills, or perspectives do you hope to gain from attending the IPPS Annual Meeting? How do you plan to actively contribute to the meeting and to the IPPS community during and after the event?

3. **Professional Experience**

Briefly describe any relevant internships, employment, research experiences, or extracurricular activities that have contributed to your interest in horticulture.

4. **Career Vision**

What are your short- and long-term career goals following graduation or entry into the horticulture profession? How does participation in IPPS align with these goals?

Additional Information

Please include any additional information that strengthens your application including leadership roles, research, industry involvement, or unique experiences.

Applicant Agreement

I certify that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I understand the responsibilities associated with participation in the IPPS Southern Region Scholarship Program.

Signature:

Date:

Submission Information DUE JUNE 1

Please submit completed applications to:

Donna Foster

Email: scplant@bellsouth.net

Phone: (803) 743-4284