



# Bennie J. Swans Jr. Scholarship for Leadership Grand Strand

The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Educational Foundation offers an annual scholarship to Leadership Grand Strand (LGS) to provide full-tuition for one person from an underrepresented group. A selection committee of chamber committee members will award this scholarship. *Completing this scholarship application does not guarantee tuition assistance.*

**Application** - All applications must be typed via this PDF form; handwritten applications will not be accepted.

## Submit

Scholarship applications must be submitted with the LGS program application and reference letters by:

- Email to [LGS@VisitMyrtleBeach.com](mailto:LGS@VisitMyrtleBeach.com) (If emailing, the file name must include your full name. Ex: Your-Name-BennieSwansScholarship); or
- Mail to Shannon Furtick, Leadership Grand Strand, PO Box 2115, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578; or

**Deadline for submission is June 15, 2026**

## About Bennie J. Swans Jr.

Bennie J. Swans Jr. was a longtime community and civil rights activist and a former chair of the Horry County Democratic Party that passed away in September 2020. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Purple Heart for his service. Bennie was a driving force in the formation of the annual Martin Luther King Freedom Rally events and parade in Myrtle Beach each year. This was his way of uniting people across the county because of his belief in embracing diversity equity and inclusion. Bennie led with his heart, and you could often hear him say “Do Something” to make our community a better place.

The following criteria will be evaluated by the selection committee:

- The essay will be evaluated on the applicant’s relationships, impact & background towards an underrepresented or marginalized group.
- The applicant’s commitment, involvement, and desire to improve the community.
- Quality of application: leadership question responses, letters of recommendation, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

**Name**

**Email**

**Phone**

**Please list the demographic(s) you represent:**

**In no more than 500 words, explain how this scholarship will assist you in reaching your professional goals.**