Protecting America's Outdoors

The Izaak Walton League of America National Conservation Scholarship

BACKGROUND:

From our mission statement, the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is "to conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soil, forest, water and other natural resources of the United States and other lands; to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization." Part of our longstanding mission includes education.

The League has long realized that education is important to the future our environment. By providing knowledge to today's public, we will leave a legacy of conservation of the natural resources for future generations.

Established in 2005, the IWLA National Conservation Scholarship program was formed to further encourage, promote, and recognize conservation leadership among future natural resource managers and professionals.

This scholarship was designed to further support undergraduates from recognized conservation or environmental-related degree programs. Programs may include, but are not limited to, those such as: environmental science/engineering/education, natural resource management, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, parks and recreation, range management, and soils, and other related sciences such as ecology, biology (conservation/field/marine), geology, hydrology, and zoology, including mammalogy, ornithology, and entomology.

The National Conservation Scholarship complements the many scholarships offered annually by IWLA local chapters and state divisions. "These League scholarships provide students not only with financial support, but also with moral support from like-minded conservationists."

{Source: *Outdoor America*, Summer 2004, "All Aboard the Scholar Ship" pages 36 –37}

This national scholarship is made possible with support from the members of the Izaak Walton League of America and a generous annual grant from the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, Inc.

QUALIFICATIONS:

IWLA National Conservation Scholarship *may* be presented to no more than two undergraduate students in the United States, one in each of the following qualification categories. Each scholarship category includes up to a $2,500 scholarship, an engraved plaque, and a one-year IWLA student membership.

Category #1 - Previous IWLA Chapter/Division Scholarship Recipient

Applicant is a:

Previous recipient of an IWLA chapter/division scholarship.

By the completion of the spring semester/quarter, applicants must:

1. Be an undergraduate in a recognized conservation or environmental-related degree program.
2. Have junior or senior class standing (completed a minimum of 56 semester hours or 108 quarter hours).
3. Have at least one semester or two quarters remaining in their degree program.
4. Be scheduled to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student for the following fall semester/quarter.

Category #2 - Child Of Or A Current IWLA Member

Applicant is a:

Son or daughter of a current IWLA member for at least one year prior to submission, or a current IWLA member for at least one year prior to submission.

By the completion of the spring semester/quarter, applicants must:

1. Be an undergraduate in a recognized conservation or environmental-related degree program.
2. Have junior or senior class standing (completed a minimum of 56 semester hours or 108 quarter hours).
3. Have at least one semester or two quarters remaining in their degree program.
4. Be scheduled to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student for the following fall semester/quarter.

ELIGIBILITY:

Previous IWLA National Conservation Scholarship recipients are ineligible. You may apply for only one category per year. If not selected, but eligible, you may apply during the second year.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Your completed application must be mailed postmarked no later than April 1st.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Complete the IWLA National Conservation Scholarship Application Form, including the written requirements, enclose one letter of personal reference, two letters of recommendation from faculty at your college/university, have your university department head/chair or advisor complete and sign their designated section, and then you mail the completed packet to: Izaak Walton League of America, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983, Attention: IWLA National Conservation Scholarship. Feel free to photocopy the application form.

You will receive a confirmation acknowledging receipt of your application. If you do not receive acknowledgment within two to three weeks, please call toll free 1-800 IKE-LINE, ext. 216, to confirm receipt of your application packet.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Applicants will be evaluated based upon their knowledge of conservation/environmental issues and their commitment as a future conservation leader. Each submitted application will be screened by the National Conservation Scholarship Sub-Committee, as part of an effort of the IWLA Conservation Education and Youth Convention Committee. Also included are representatives from the IWLA Executive Board and the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, Inc., who will assist in making the final decision regarding the selection of recipients by the end of the month of May.

IWLA National Conservation Scholarship recipients will be announced and recognized at the annual IWLA national convention in July, and scholarships will be awarded directly through the college/university at the beginning of the fall semester/quarter.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS:

The awarded scholarship may be used only for tuition, fees, books, room and board, or other related-research expenses. Payments may be made directly to the college/university in the name of student, thus the student's identification number will be required only if selected. After an award is made, any major change in the recipient's course of study requires prior notification of the League. The IWLA reserves the right to withhold or terminate a scholarship due to unsatisfactory academic performance, or recipient's early departure or withdrawal from college. Scholarship criteria or procedures subject to change without notice.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS:

The Izaak Walton League of America National Conservation Scholarship is made possible with support from the members of the Izaak Walton League of America and a generous annual grant from the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, Incorporated.

Izaak Walton League of America
www.iwla.org

Izaak Walton League of America Endowment
www.iwlaendowment.org

SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS CHECK LIST:

Complete the following application steps:

- ✓ **APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM**
- ✓ **INTERESTS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES** (5 points)
- ✓ **MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS** (5 points)
- ✓ **RELATED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE** (5 points)
- ✓ **LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES** (10 points)
- ✓ **ESSAY: CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY** (20 points)
- ✓ **ESSAY: CRITICAL CONSERVATION ISSUES** (20 points)
- ✓ **ESSAY: PERSONAL STATEMENT** (20 points)
- ✓ **MEDIA AND PUBLICITY CONTACTS** (Requested)
- ✓ **ONE PERSONAL REFERENCE LETTER** (5 points)
- ✓ **TWO FACULTY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** (10 points)
- ✓ **STUDENT'S RELEASE AND CERTIFICATION** (Required)
- ✓ **DEPARTMENT HEAD/CHAIR OR ADVISOR SIGN-OFF** (Required)
- ✓ **SEND THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS TO:**
  Izaak Walton League of America
  707 Conservation Lane
  Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983
  ATTN: National Conservation Scholarship
- ✓ **MAILED POSTMARKED BY NO LATER THAN APRIL 1ST**

The Izaak Walton League of America
National Conservation Scholarship Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM:

Date: _____ Student Identification Number: _____
(Optional, Required for Payment to Recipient)

Name Of Applicant: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Applying For (Check One): [ ] Previous IWLA Chapter/Division Scholarship Recipient
[ ] Son/Daughter of IWLA Member, or Current IWLA Member

If for Scholarship Category #1:
Name of IWLA Chapter/Division Scholarship: _____ Year: _____

If for Scholarship Category #2:
Parent's Name and IWLA Membership Number: _____ , _____
- or -
Your IWLA Membership Number: _____ IWLA Member Since: _____ / _____

College/University Name: _____

Location (City and State): _____

Current Class Standing (Check One): [ ] Sophomore [ ] Junior [ ] Senior

Grade Point Average: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date (Month and Year): _____ / _____

Conservation or Environmental-Related Major: _____

Your College/ University Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Permanent Home Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS:

INTERESTS AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES (5 points): List your interests, hobbies and leisure activities (in 100 words or less).

MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS (5 points): List all conservation, environmental, wildlife, sportsmen's, community and professional organizations to which you belong. Include, with dates, the length of memberships (in 100 words or less).

RELATED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (5 points): List, with dates, any conservation and environmental-related work experience you have had (in 100 words or less).

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES (10 points): Describe your activities and accomplishments. List organizations, dates, offices held, committee chairs, or other examples of leadership in conservation and environmental organizations, professional associations, as well as community and university groups and activities (in 300 words or less).

ESSAY: CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY (20 points): Discuss your philosophy of natural resources management as a component of conservation. Consider issues such as protection of soil, water, air, forests and wildlife and outdoor recreation (in 500 words or less).

ESSAY: CRITICAL CONSERVATION ISSUES (20 points): Identify what you believe to be the most important conservation issues facing North America during the next ten years, and how they will impact future natural resource management activities (in 500 words or less).

ESSAY: PERSONAL STATEMENT (20 points): Write a statement directed to the Izaak Walton League providing information concerning your career goals and objectives, such as how you plan to use your education and training in the future (in 500 words or less).

PERSONAL REFERENCE LETTER (5 points): Enclose one (1) reference letter from an individual, such as a friend, co-worker, employer, fellow student, coach, teacher or mentor (other than a family member), stating why you are worthy to receive an IWLA National Conservation Scholarship.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

FACULTY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (10 points): Enclose two (2) letters of recommendation from college/university faculty stating why you are eligible to receive an IWLA National Conservation Scholarship.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

MEDIA AND PUBLICITY CONTACTS:

Should you be selected to receive an IWLA National Conservation Scholarship, the IWLA reserves the right to distribute your name, major, university and hometown in the form of a press release to national, regional and local media, and as articles in national, state and local IWLA publications and Web sites.

Name, address, email and telephone of college/university newspaper(s):
_____

Name, address email, and telephone of hometown newspaper(s):
_____

STUDENT'S RELEASE AND CERTIFICATION:

I hereby give permission to use the information provided on this application for recognition purposes if selected. I also give permission to release information concerning my academic progress to donors of the scholarship I may receive. I understand that I must be registered as a full-time college/university student next fall semester/quarter to be eligible to receive an IWLA scholarship. To the best of my knowledge, the information provided in the application is true and correct.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD/CHAIR OR ADVISOR:

The applicant, _____, currently is a full-time student of the _____ class by the end of the spring semester/quarter (56 semester hours or 108 quarter hours) in a conservation or environmental-related curriculum of _____ .

His/her grade point average to date is _____ (based on a 4.0 scale).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name:_____ Title: _____

FINAL SUBMISSION:

When you have completed all parts of the application including the letter and essay requirements, please submit via U.S. Postal Service the completed application form and required attachments directly to the national office of the Izaak Walton League of America (postmarked no later than April 1st).