

Your Endowment in Action

2021 National Conservation Scholarships

The Izaak Walton League awards two \$2,500 national scholarships each year to complement scholarships offered by League chapters and divisions. The national scholarships help educate future conservation leaders by

supporting college students pursuing degrees in natural resources and related studies. These scholarships are made possible and fully funded through a generous annual grant from Izaak Walton League of America Endowment.

The scholarship review committee selected the following students to receive the League's National Conservation Scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year.



ELIJAH "ELI" HOAR

Elijah "Eli" Hoar Virginia Tech University

Conservation Philosophy

"Agronomy is the biggest thing we need to focus on along with other related conservation practices to prevent soil erosion. I work in a region of Virginia where few of the agricultural producers practice no-till farming. This area is filled with many rivers and creeks, so keeping the erosion down is a huge concern.

"This type of tillage practice would help farmers keep essential nutrients in their fields and help keep water quality up. When nutrient-filled soil, or just treated soil, reaches the water it can

diminish the quality of water. If the water quality becomes too bad, then fish will die and the whole ecosystem will be completely changed."

Critical Conservation Issues

"I believe soil erosion to be the biggest threat to natural resource conservation. Many farmers still plow fields before planting leaving upturned soil open to the elements which could cause large amounts of erosion. For the average person, soil is just what they walk on. However, to farmers and environmentally minded people, soil is like gold. Producers need the nutrients that good topsoil provides, and they need the water-holding capacity as well.

"Limiting the amount of soil erosion will help keep nutrients

in the soil, allowing for better yields in crops, and could help remediate more marginal soils that are being conventionally tilled. Improving these marginal soils is going to be the key to feeding the predicted nine billion world population by 2050. Soil conservation is the key."

More About Elijah

Eli wishes to return home in southeastern Virginia to use his degree in crop and soil science and launch a career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in order "to help farmers participate in conservation-minded ways of farming" and later further his studies in graduate school.

National Conservation Scholarships

Know a conservation-minded college student who could use an extra \$2,500 for tuition and expenses?

Learn more about specific requirements on the League's website at iwla.org/scholarship.

The next application cycle begins January 1, 2022, with a deadline of May 15, 2022.



JACOB "JAKE" HILL

Jacob "Jake" Hill Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas

Conservation Philosophy

"Natural resource management is a holistic approach to managing the entire ecosystem. Ecosystems include the non-living, abiotic components along with the biota, such as the flora and the fauna. Soil, water, wildlife, woods and air are all components of an ecosystem that are so interwoven and connected that any effect on one consequently affects the whole. By maintaining stable soils, clean water, abundant wildlife, healthy forests and clean air, society is able to enjoy

the outdoors with an increased appreciation which will then be passed down to following generations."

Critical Conservation Issues

"There are many issues currently facing North American wildlife and other natural resources. However, there are three prominent issues that stand out above all others and will be in the forefront over the next 10 years. These include a steep decline in hunter participation and recruitment, increased political interference in natural resources management decisions and a shortage of fresh, clean water. "We are faced with a wide array of perplexing and conflicting conservation and natural resource management issues in the 21st

century. With an increasing human population across the globe, these natural resources conflicts are only expected to continue. A renewed commitment to fight for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources is needed."

More About Jacob

Jake plans to pursue a law degree focused on natural resources and the environment, and he hopes to "become a 'weapon' for conservation, for hunters' rights and for wildlife...and to be influential in conserving the land."