



Mercer County Conservation District

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Ross Paulenich Memorial Conservation Scholarship

The Mercer County Conservation District is proud to offer the Ross Paulenich Memorial Conservation Scholarship. Ross was raised in Hermitage and graduated from Hickory High School. He then graduated from Clarion University with two bachelor's degrees – one in Environmental Biology and another in Geographic Information Systems. Ross was passionate about conservation and loved the outdoors. In addition to working in the environmental field, he spent much of his free time hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed mushroom hunting and cheering on the Pittsburgh Penguins. This scholarship is awarded in his honor.

Funds raised through the Mercer County Conservation District's Photo Contest support the scholarship. The Photo Contest highlights the natural resources and natural beauty of Mercer County through a cooperative effort with residents and visitors to our great county.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant must be a senior at a Mercer County high school.
- The applicant must be planning to major in Environmental Science/Studies, Agriculture, Biology, Engineering, Conservation, Natural Resource Management, or similar.

CRITERIA

- The applicant must have exceptional academic achievement.
- The applicant must have significant involvement in school and community activities.
- Involvement in local conservation activities is preferred.

PROCEDURE

- The applicant must submit their completed form and supplemental materials via email to jmedberry@mercercountypa.gov by **January 31, 2024**.
- All applications must be typed. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.
- All questions must be answered completely, and all attachments must be submitted with the application.
- Applications must include a signature from the student, a parent/guardian, and a guidance counselor.
- All applications will be reviewed and awarded by the Mercer County Conservation District's Scholarship Review Team.
- The awardee will be announced in the Spring of 2024, and the scholarship will be presented to the awardee during their high school award ceremony.

APPLICATION

Student Name: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Phone number: _____

Parent/guardian name(s): _____

High school: _____

Current GPA: _____ Guidance Counselor Name: _____

Expected college (if you are unsure, write "TBD"): _____

Expected major (if you are unsure, write "TBD"): _____

Extracurricular activities from the past two years:

Volunteer experience from the past two years:

ESSAY

Attach a 250-500-word essay about what conservation means to you. Include an example of a local conservation effort you have been involved with and how you plan to incorporate conservation into your future.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Attach a letter written by someone not related to you, such as a teacher, guidance counselor, or scout leader. The letter should speak to the character and integrity of the student.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Guidance Counselor Signature: _____