

THE TRAIL BLAZERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Offered in 2008 in honor of Virg Harder

Background:

The Trail Blazers is a volunteer organization that contributes most of its time, energy and knowledge toward helping the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife manage high lake fisheries. Members also participate in a variety of studies, conservation and wilderness protection activities, camp cleanups, stream restoration and trail maintenance, but the fish stocking and surveying activities have given the Trail Blazers their focus that has endured since 1933.

Virg Harder was a Trail Blazer from 1969 to 2007. Virg participated in 522 high lake fish planting or survey trips during that time. Virg used his training and experience as a professor of business communications to help the Trail Blazers evolve from not only planting and surveying lakes to better sharing this extensive knowledge and experience with state and federal agencies for improved management of the high lakes fishery. Perhaps even more important, Virg was a friend and mentor to so many younger Trail Blazers who will provide the leadership needed for the decades ahead.

The Trail Blazers, Inc. are most interested in assisting students who seek a career that will enhance the management of wilderness, natural resources and fisheries science in Washington State's mountains.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for consideration, students must complete the attached application form and submit it along with the attachments requested. It must be mailed by April 1st of the year of the award.

Student Selection:

Applicants will be judged on the criteria of scholarship, leadership, integrity, and other personal achievements. Strong preference will be given to those applicants who clearly demonstrate an interest in pursuing careers that involve professional work in Washington's high country. (examples: forester, fisheries scientist, geologist, wildlife biologist, botanist, or wilderness recreation specialist.) Since students usually do not know for certain where their professional careers will begin, the applicant should give some detail as to the probability of their working in Washington State. Applicants with existing or planned research work in Washington's high country will be given additional preference.

Awards:

One qualified student will be selected to receive a \$1,000 one-time scholarship.

Applications are available at the Trail Blazers website: www.watrailblazers.org. Email your completed application materials to aprudl@msn.com.

Refer any questions and/or comments to :

Trail Blazers Scholarship Committee
c/o Jack Rollo
9733 SW Harbor Drive
Vashon, WA 98070
(206 463 3187)
aprudl@email.msn.com

Questions:

Questions concerning the application form or process may be addressed to the Scholarship Committee chairperson, above.

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Due April 1, 2008

To be considered, a student must have a complete application packet. All applications will be reviewed by the selection committee only and are confidential.

Student Name: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Address: _____

Please include the following with your application:

1. Complete application form.
2. Current transcript.
3. Two letters of recommendation from a sponsor or staff member of the student's current school.

A typed double-spaced personal essay. The essay should include a description of the student's community or outdoor service, interests, professional goals and the area of study being pursued. It should also contain a discussion of the student's outdoor activities, and a statement on why he/she is worthy of this award.