

THE TRAIL BLAZERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Offered in 2011 in honor of George B. Kniert

Background:

The Trail Blazers is a volunteer organization that contributes its time, energy and knowledge toward helping the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Members 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.

George was an active member of the Trail Blazers for 53 years. An avid fisherman from youth to adulthood he joined the Trail Blazers in 1948 after his service in the 26th Air Service Squadron in World War II. Modestly, George played a profound role in the Trailblazers for decades. Year after year he was highly active in the outdoors stocking and surveying a profound number of lakes. He travelled to remote areas of the Cascades exploring and expanding the network of lakes to be enjoyed by fishermen, naming 14 alpine lakes in the Cascades along the way. His dedication to the club was not only demonstrated in the field but also within the administration. George was a mentor to many and a motivating agent of the club through the purist of the Trail Blazer's dedication of "better alpine fishing".

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 May 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 completed application materials to mindapaul@hotmail.com.

Refer any questions and/or comments to:

Trail Blazers Scholarship Committee

c/o Minda Paul

3700 Alabama St #310

Bellingham, WA 98229

(360-510-9419)

mindapaul@hotmail.com

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Due May 1, 2011

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.
4. 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.