

Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship Application Guidelines

The Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to supporting Tillamook County high school students who are passionate about pursuing a degree or training in fields related to natural resources, including fisheries science, forestry, agriculture, transportation, and manufacturing/industrial trades. This scholarship honors the legacy of Mark Wiegardt, fourth-generation oyster farmer, small-business owner, and member of the Tillamook Working Lands and Waters Cooperative. This scholarship is aimed at encouraging and empowering the next generation of professionals dedicated to the stewardship of our natural resources and advocacy for sustainable working lands and waters.

Award Amount

The Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship will provide one \$2,000 award to a graduating senior to be used towards tuition, fees, books, and other educational expenses. The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the recipient. Awards are non-renewable.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

High School Status: Must be a current high school senior, graduating from a school in Tillamook County (Tillamook, Neah-Kah-Nie, Nestucca Valley, or the Wilson River School) on track to obtain a high school diploma or GED by June 30, 2025.

1. **Field of Study:** Must be planning to pursue a degree in natural resources-related fields such as fisheries science, forestry, agriculture, or related disciplines including transportation and manufacturing/industrial trades.
2. **College Acceptance:** Must have been accepted to an accredited college or university or trades school.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. **Completed Application Form:** Fill out the Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship application form.
2. **Personal Statement:** Write a personal statement (500-750 words) explaining your interest in natural resources, your career goals, and how this scholarship will help you achieve those goals.
3. **Official High School Transcript:** Provide an official transcript that includes your GPA.
4. **Letter of Recommendation:** Include at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or community leader who can speak to your academic achievements, character, and commitment to natural resources.
5. **Proof of College Acceptance:** Provide a copy of your acceptance letter from an accredited college or university.
6. **Resume:** Include a resume that outlines your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and any work experience related to natural resources.

Selection Criteria

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Demonstrated academic excellence in high school.
2. **Commitment to Natural Resources:** Clear passion and commitment to pursuing a career in natural resources.
3. **Leadership and Community Involvement:** Involvement in extracurricular activities, volunteer work, or community service, especially those related to natural resources.
4. **Personal Statement:** Quality and clarity of the personal statement.
5. **Letters of Recommendation:** Strength and relevance of the letters of recommendation.

Application Process

1. **Submission Deadline:** All application materials must be submitted by April 24, 2026.
2. **Submission Method:** Applications can be submitted electronically via email to [tillamooklandsandwaters@gmail.com] or hardcopies can be mailed.
3. **Notification:** Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 15, 2026.

Contact Information

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Tillamook Working Lands & Waters
Steering Team

Email Address: tillamooklandsandwaters@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 3111 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141

Mark Wiegardt Memorial Scholarship Application

Thank you for your interest in the Mark Wiegardt Scholarship! This funding opportunity honors the life and career of local shellfish farmer and entrepreneur, Mark Wiegardt, who was a passionate and hard-working advocate for natural resource industries in Tillamook County. Please complete the following application to be considered for the scholarship, which supports students pursuing careers in natural resource industries such as timber, fishing, and farming.

Applicant Information

- **Full Name:**
- **Date of Birth:**
- **High School:**
- **Expected Graduation Date:**
- **Phone Number:**
- **Email Address:**
- **Home Address:**

Academic Information

- **Current GPA:**
- **List of relevant coursework, activities, or clubs (e.g., FFA, 4-H, Environmental Science, etc.):**

Career Goals

- **What fields of study are you interested in pursuing and why?**

Essay Question

- **Why is it important to maintain local capacity in natural resource industries such as fishing, timber/wood manufacturing, and farming?**
Please provide a thoughtful essay response (500 words max) detailing the importance of sustaining local natural resources industries and how farming, fishing and/or timber processing impacts your community.

Additional Information

- **Have you participated in any internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs related to natural resources?**
If yes, please describe your experience.

References

Please provide the contact information for two references who can speak to your interest in natural resources:

1. **Reference Name:**
Relationship to Applicant:
Phone Number:
Email Address:

2. **Reference Name:**
Relationship to Applicant:
Phone Number:
Email Address:

Submission Deadline:

All applications must be submitted by April 24, 2026. Please email your completed application to tillamooklandsandwaters@gmail.com or submit it via mail to 3111 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141.