

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
Press Release

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Scholarship

Long Beach, WA—January 28, 2005—The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge today announced the launch of a scholarship fund campaign for their 2005 program. The campaign will add funds to the Friends' high school scholarship program, which provides financial awards to graduating high school seniors from Pacific County aspiring to collegiate education in fish and wildlife management, environmental education, forestry, and related natural resource and conservation fields. Contributors to the campaign will see their dollars stretched by additional funding provided by the Friends organization as well as an endowment that was gifted to the group by an anonymous donor.

The endowment from a Pacific County donor will support the campaign's goals of establishing a self-sustaining financial resource for the Friend's scholarship program. The anonymous contributor has directed that endowment earnings support programs serving the Friends' mission of education and outreach to the public. "The exceptionally rich habitat of the Willapa watershed has inspired many youth over the years to pursue advanced education in environment and natural resources fields," noted Bev Arnoldy, President of the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. "With the support of this endowment and the funds generated through this scholarship campaign, we will directly help students achieve their goals of furthering their education."

Shortly, students of Pacific County will be able to apply for this scholarship to support their continued education in environmental sciences. Students can contact their school counselors for details, two \$500 scholarships are available. Rodney Spoor, a 2004 graduate of Willapa Valley High School, was the recipient of the Friends' scholarship program last year. Rodney is pursuing a career in forestry and management at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen. "Developing appreciation for environmental stewardship both locally and globally is an important mission of the Friends," noted Shawn Stern, Friends' director and science educator in the Ocean Beach school district.

To those wanting to contribute to the scholarship program or for more information about the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, please contact Bev Arnoldy at beva@pacifier.com or 360.665.0115. Please send your tax deductible contributions to:

Scholarship Fund
Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge,
3888 SR 101,
Ilwaco, WA 98624-9707.

The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit and contributions are fully tax-deductible. Contributions to the scholarship fund makes a wonderful gift. Contact Bev for more information.

About the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge

The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is a non-profit 503 (c) (3) organization dedicated to support and enhancement of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. The Willapa Friends

is one of nearly 250 volunteer groups nationwide who partner with local refuge staff to support specific Refuge programs. Nearly 300 individual, family, and corporate members support Willapa Friends' activities in education, maintenance, and advocacy for the Refuge.

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