

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
Press Release

Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge scholarship program for Pacific County seniors interested in natural sciences and conservation

Ocean Park, WA – Monday, February 21, 2005 – The Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to support of preservation, awareness and appreciation of the Willapa Refuge, is taking applications for its scholarship program for high school seniors in Pacific County aspiring to careers in fish and wildlife management, environmental education, conservation and related fields. “The rich wildlife habitat of our Willapa Refuge and complex ecosystem in the surrounding Bay has inspired many youth over the years to pursue advanced education in natural resources management,” said Bev Arnoldy, President of the Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. “We want to further encourage students to enter these fields of study through this scholarship program.”

Scholarships will be awarded and paid directly to their chosen college, to be used for tuition, books and fees. Two \$500 scholarships are available. Applications will be accepted from Pacific County high school seniors with a demonstrated grade point average of at least 3.0 and completion of the application requirements. Scholarships will not be awarded to a student receiving a full scholarship from another source. Home schooled students are encouraged to apply as well.

Students interested in applying must submit the following applicable information prior to March 25th, 2005:

- Completed application form (available online at <http://www.willapabay.org/~fwnwr/scholarship.html>)
- Copy of letter of acceptance to an accredited school
- Copy of grade transcripts from junior year through current senior year
- Three (3) letters of recommendation, including one from a school guidance counselor
- A typed 250 to 300 word essay on the applicant’s career goals and need for this scholarship

Completed applications should be mailed to:
Scholarship Committee/Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge
PO Box 1, Nahcotta WA 98637.

Applicants will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee and by vote of the Board of Directors by April 20, 2005. Selection will be based on the merit of the application, without regard to race, gender, religion, or relationship with Refuge staff or principals.

The Mission of the Friends of Willapa NWR is to provide assistance to Refuge programs and to enhance awareness and appreciation of the Willapa NWR and these educational programs is a large part of the Friends efforts in accomplishing that. For more information contact Bev Arnoldy at 665-0115 or visit www.willapabay.org/~fwnwr.

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