The Jake Merrill Outdoor Leadership Scholarship was established to honor Jake Merrill’s commitment to education and to quality outdoor leadership. Each year an award will be made to a student(s) who demonstrates financial need, potential in the area of outdoor leadership, and a commitment to the development of community through outdoor engagement.

About Jake Merrill

Jake graduated from the Recreation Management and Leadership Program with an emphasis in Outdoor Leadership in December of 2013. Tragically, he died in an avalanche accident on February 11, 2014 while proudly acting as an assistant ski guide on his first professional job. Jake loved and respected the outdoors and his education. He interned with the North Cascade Mountain Guides in Mazama, Washington and worked tirelessly to further develop his outdoor leadership skills while still a full-time student. He completed a month-long glacier travel course in Alaska through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and his AIARE (Avalanche) Level 1 and 2 Certification through the American Alpine Institute. He guided sea kayaking trips for San Juan Outfitters, completed an AMGA Single Pitch Climbing Instructor Course, obtained his Wilderness First Responder medical training, attended a NOLS Risk Management conference in Portland, and worked as an Excursion Coordinator and trip leader for the Outdoor Center at WWU. Finally, Jake trained with Mount Baker Mountain Guides, was a Western Outdoor Orientation Trips (WOOT) trip leader, participated in a Leave No Trace trainer program, and volunteered as a student leader for a WWU Recreation Management and Leadership Program camp for persons with developmental disabilities.

Criteria

The purpose of this scholarship endowment is to honor Jake Merrill’s legacy by providing support for students in the Recreation Management and Leadership Program who desire to enhance their education at WWU with additional educational and training opportunities in outdoor leadership. Preference will be made to applicants who demonstrate in their application:

1. Outstanding potential in the field of outdoor leadership
2. A commitment to using outdoor leadership to develop and foster a strong sense of community
3. A minimum G.P.A of 3.0

Application Process

The following scholarship application materials must be submitted to Denise Logue by April 9, 2021 (denise.logue@wwu.edu, 360-650-3505).

1. A completed Scholarship Application Form
2. A short essay addressing the first two criteria above (not to exceed 1000 words)
3. An unofficial transcript or academic history
4. Three Scholarship Recommendation Forms (may not be from a Recreation faculty member)

Scholarship Application and Recommendation forms: https://chss.wwu.edu/hhd/scholarships-0

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Logue at 360-650-3505 or denise.logue@wwu.edu.