

2023 Master Gardener Don Tapio Scholarship

The Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties Master Gardeners Don Tapio Scholarship is named for the man who is the epitome of “paying it forward”. As a young man Don almost had to quit college when his father lost his job at a plywood plant, but his Professor of Horticulture, Elwood Walter Kalin Sr, saved the day by arranging for Don to receive a scholarship from the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs. He went on to a successful 36-year career as a Washington State University extension agent, never forgetting the garden clubs which helped him in his time of need. He supported local garden clubs and the early Master Gardener program and delivered hundreds of public speaking engagements as a way to say thank you. Though retired, he continues to support the Olympia Garden Club with trees and cuttings for their annual holiday wreath sales that provide grants to Thurston County communities.

Amount of Award:

One \$1000 scholarship annually

Selection Criteria:

- Graduating senior (to include home school and alternative school students) attending a high school in Grays Harbor or Pacific counties
- Elected academic major in a horticulture/life sciences – related field that includes, but is not limited to: horticulture, agriculture, biology, botany, chemistry, entomology, environmental science forestry, genetics, landscape design, sustainable agriculture, urban geography, urban planning and horticulture-related business
- Submit a current transcript
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- One letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or staff member
- One letter of recommendation from a community member
- A resume to include extracurricular activities, community service, leadership and work experience (not to exceed two pages, 14 font)

Essay:

Mission statement - WSU Master Gardeners are dedicated volunteers who are passionate about the mission of the WSU Master Gardener program to deliver science-based information to Washington State communities that helps to conserve and enhance our natural resources while improving the quality of life and wellbeing of Washington state residents.

ESSAY Question:

The Master Gardeners primary mission is to educate the public in gardening and natural resources. Considering the Master Gardener mission, how do you see yourself contributing to the community in your area of study?

Essay Format:

Double-spaced, 14 font, and not to exceed two pages or in lieu of a written essay, a video of 5 minutes or less following the essay criteria would be accepted.

Application Process:

Application will be available online at the Master Gardener website (www.pnwmg.org) or available by contacting Katie Lutz at katielutz15@gmail.com or 360-292-8917. The applicants will submit all completed documents to the Grays Harbor County WSU extension office.

Drop off address:

WSU Extension - Grays Harbor County
34 Elma-McCleary Road
Elma, WA 98541

Mailing address:

WSU Extension - Grays Harbor County
PO Box 3018
Elma, WA 98541-3018

The application period runs from February 1, 2023 to May 1, 2023 (POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2023).

Scholarship Decision:

The selection of the recipient will be under the direction of the Master Gardener Committee. Applicants will be notified by mail of the decision.

Scholarship monies will be sent directly to the college/university cashier's office in the recipient's name.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.