

Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship



“Dark, unreasonable fear can twist and grind an individual... It is necessary to dig deep within oneself to discover that hidden grain of steel called will.” - Ryan Shay, 1997

In 2008, members of the Shay family established the Shay Memorial Foundation (SMF) in memory of their 28-year-old son, Ryan Shay, who passed away from sudden heart failure on November 3, 2007, while competing in the 2007 United States Olympic Marathon Trials in New York City. Ryan grew up in Central Lake and graduated as a valedictorian from Central Lake High School in 1997. He earned a degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame and was a world class distance runner. This fund provides memorial scholarships to qualifying Central Lake High School senior students to honor his memory.

Scholarship Selection by:

Shay Memorial Foundation

Award Amounts:

The award amount is \$1,000 per scholarship

Award disbursement:

Scholarship will be paid upon submission of copy for first semester tuition bill to the college/university at which the student is enrolled

Scholarship Criteria:

- Will be a graduate of Central Lake High School (CLHS) and will be accepted to a two-year or four-year college or university to pursue a program certificate or degree
- Male or female student athlete
- Must have earned varsity athletic letters during at least three scholastic years at CLHS in Cross Country and/or Track and Field programs
- Must have been accepted to a two or four year college/university as a full time student
- Or have been accepted to the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana or Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana regardless of participation in cross-country or track and field
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA

Required Materials:

- Scholarship application form
- Brief essay of two (2) typewritten pages
- Latest transcript with cumulative Grade Point Average through first semester CLHS senior year and best ACT or SAT score
- One (1) letter of recommendation from Coach/ Athletic Director/ Teacher/Administrator describing why they feel that you should receive this award
- One (1) letter of recommendation from an adult non-family/non school faculty member describing why they believe you should receive this award
- Provide letter writers with pre addressed stamped envelopes to Shay Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 342, Central Lake, MI 49622
- Signature of coach/AD verifying three (3) years of varsity cross-country and/or track and field participation (may not combine years from either sport)
- Signature must be that of counselor or principal to verify cumulative GPA
- Copy of letter for acceptance as a full time student to a two or four year college/university
- Or copy of letter for acceptance as a full time student to the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana or St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana

Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship 2019 Application

Please print in ink or type the following information:

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street/P.O. Box No. City Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parents'/Guardians' Name: _____

College you will attend as full-time student: _____

Program of Study: _____

Current G.P.A. _____ (include copy of high school transcript)

Application Essay

The following excerpt is from Ryan's 1997 high school graduation commencement speech:

Although not everyone is going to win in life, everyone can set personal goals. Striving to reach the goal is an achievement in itself. Satisfaction comes from knowing you've given it your best shot. When you've done everything you know how to do and then don't master it, you can still feel successful. Then you will never have to look back and say "if only I had tried!" Remember, "a loser is one who does not accomplish anything without even trying". - Ryan Shay, 1997

Discover Ryan Shay by researching the internet and You Tube videos and then describe (in two typewritten pages) what specific character attributes you may share in common with Ryan and how those attributes and this scholarship would help you achieve your goals.

Along with this application, please submit your high school transcript, ACT or SAT score, as well as two letters of recommendation; one from a non-family/school faculty member and one from a teacher/coach/athletic director/administrator.

Obtain the following signatures:

I certify that _____ has earned a cumulative GPA of _____ for
applicant name
grades 9-11 and first semester of grade 12.

Counselor or Principal Signature Date

I certify that _____ has participated three years in either cross-
applicant name
country or track and field during (grades 9-12) high school scholastic years. (May not combine years from either sport.)

Coach or Athletic Director Signature Date

I certify that the answers provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student applicant Signature Date

Application Checklist:

Completed application _____

Typed two (2) page Essay (attach to application) _____

Copy of High School Transcript _____

Copy of ACT or SAT score _____

Coach/AD/Teacher/Administrator letter of recommendation (mailed to SMF) _____

Adult other than family/school faculty letter of recommendation (mailed to SMF) _____

Copy of college/university acceptance letter _____

Verification signature of cumulative GPA _____

Verification signature of three (3) years cross-country or three (3) years track and field participation _____

Student applicant signature _____

Please return these items, postmarked by Monday, April 10, 2020 to:

SMF Shay Memorial Foundation

P.O. Box 342, Central Lake, MI 49622

If you have any questions, please visit our website: www.ryanshay.org, email at smshay51@gmail.com, or coachshay49@gmail.com or phone: (231) 420.2311