



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 20, 2021

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Muter Outdoor Fund Announces 2021 John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Muter Outdoor Fund is pleased to announce its fourth annual cohort of John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship recipients. The scholarship program, launched in 2018, recognizes college undergraduates who are committed to engaging new audiences and new generations with Michigan's natural resources and rich outdoor heritage. The program was established in memory of the late John Muter, an avid Michigan sportsman, who passed away in 2016 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

The six winners were selected from a highly-qualified pool of 32 applicants, representing ten Michigan colleges and universities. Recipients were selected for their clear passion for Michigan and its outdoor opportunities as well as their demonstrated commitment of introducing others to those opportunities, such as fishing, hunting, camping, boating and wildlife watching. Each winner received either a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship to support their 2021-2022 academic expenses.

Our six winners for 2021 include:



Benjamin Butcher

Durand, Michigan • Michigan State University

Ben is currently a senior at Michigan State University (MSU) and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education. At MSU, he serves as the president of the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education Club and as a member of the Agronomy and Dairy Club. Ben plans to embark on a career as an agriculture science educator in a high school setting. He plans to spend his career teaching students about topics ranging from tree identification to watershed health that require students to spend quality time exploring the outdoors and our state's natural resources.

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Blake Chosa

Baraga, Michigan • Michigan Technological University

Blake is entering his fourth year at Michigan Technological University (MTU) where he is majoring in Wildlife Ecology & Management and minoring in Fish Biology. At MTU, Blake is involved in the Wildlife Society Student Chapter and previously served as its social chair. He is also involved with the Fishing Club. Since starting his studies at MTU, Blake has worked for Baraga State Park and the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area Project, and has served as a wildlife technician for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Blake hopes to work as a wildlife technician, a land manager, or as a conservation officer.



Kyle Kunst

Grand Rapids, Michigan • Grand Valley State University

Kyle is in his junior year at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and is majoring in marketing. He is on the GVSU Fishing Team and regularly competes in collegiate tournaments both in Michigan and around the country. At the age of 17, Kyle started his own outdoor YouTube channel called "Reel Obsession" which features a variety of hunting and fishing videos. Over the last few years, he's filmed many videos and has built up a large following. Once he completes his marketing degree, Kyle hopes to land a job for a company in the outdoor industry where he can combine his passions.



Maisie Wiler

Zeeland, Michigan • Grand Valley State University

Maisie is currently in her junior year at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management. At GVSU, she has volunteered her time for research projects that attempt to understand the effects of controlled burning on invasive species. Maisie has also been involved with the Farm Club, serving throughout the last year as its president. She has also practiced and educated students on the principles of sustainable agriculture and sustainable living. This summer, she interned with the National Park Service as an Interpretive Ranger at Mount Rushmore.

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Isabella Zamecki

Waterford, Michigan • Michigan State University

Bella just kicked off her junior year at Michigan State University, where she is majoring in Zoology with a concentration in animal behavior. She is on MSU's Pre-Veterinary studies track. At MSU, Bella is an active member of the MSU Archery Team and serves as its Internal Communications Chair. She is incredibly active on campus and is a member of the Birding Club, Fisheries and Wildlife Club, and Pre-Vet Club. She hopes to attend veterinary school and start her own large animal practice. Bella also wants to host summer camps to teach kids about animals and what it's like to work in the veterinary field!



Claire Zwiens

Grand Rapids, Michigan • University of Michigan

Claire is finishing her last semester at the University of Michigan where she is double majoring in Earth & Environmental Science and Ecology, Evolution & Biodiversity. She has a passion for research and has been researching harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie for the entirety of her undergraduate studies. Claire has served her community with her love for the outdoors through leading a local middle school Science Olympiad team to nationals, educating others about sustainability through her work as a Planet Blue Ambassador, and more. She hopes to continue these efforts throughout her future career.

About the Muter Outdoor Fund

The Muter Outdoor Fund is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, established to provide scholarships, grants and programs that promote outdoor recreation and celebrate Michigan's natural resources and rich outdoor heritage. Its first program, the John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship, recognizes college undergraduates who, like John, have demonstrated their commitment to introducing new audiences to fishing, hunting, and other forms of outdoor recreation in Michigan. Since its inception in 2018, the Muter Outdoor Fund has awarded \$13,500 in scholarships to undergraduate students in Michigan. The application for the 2022 scholarship is now available at www.muteroutdoorfund.org. The Muter Outdoor Fund has also recently supported the Saginaw Bay Nature Festival spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Pinconning and Standish.

To learn more about the Muter Outdoor Fund and how you can support their scholarship program, please visit their website www.muteroutdoorfund.org or e-mail at muteroutdoorfund@gmail.com.

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