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Muter Outdoor Fund Announces 2024 John A. Muter Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Muter Outdoor Fund is pleased to announce its seventh 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 five winners were selected from a highly-qualified pool of 42 applicants, representing 14 Michigan colleges and universities. Recipients were selected based on 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 a \$1,000 scholarship to support his or her 2024-2025 academic expenses.

Our five recipients for 2024 include:



Maximina Bohl

Otsego, Michigan • Western Michigan University

Mina just started her senior year at Western Michigan University (WMU) majoring in elementary education. She is an active member of the WMU Geology Club, and this will be her second year serving as the club's secretary. Mina helped start the club's new Educational Outreach Committee which introduces K-12 children to the fascinating geology and landscapes of Michigan. Whether traveling to local schools or hosting students on campus, Mina loves to see the place we call home from many different points of view. After graduation, Mina is determined to become a teacher who encourages her students to explore the outdoors, wonder about the world, and use their skills to help take care of our environment for future generations to enjoy.

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Tanner Hatch

Alpena, Michigan • Ferris State University

Tanner is a senior at Ferris State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Product Design Engineering Technology. Growing up in Northeast Michigan, Tanner enjoys hunting whitetails, fishing for trout, and looking for antler sheds. If he isn't home or at school, he can be found in the woods. Tanner likes to document his outdoor adventures on his successful Instagram page *Outdoorsman Paradise*. With more than 2,500 followers, Tanner hopes to grow this audience to help encourage people of all ages to experience the outdoors. After graduation, Tanner plans to work for an outdoor brand designing the newest and best outdoor equipment on the market. He also hopes to create a new outdoor recreation center where people can learn and experience outdoor activities ranging from archery to fly fishing.



Rebecca Lane

Traverse City, Michigan • Northern Michigan University

Becky is a senior at Northern Michigan University majoring in environmental studies and sustainability and minoring in wildlife conservation law and policing. Outside of class, Becky pole vaults for the Women's Track and Field Team, serves as co-leader for the NMU Hoop House (a gardening club), co-vice president for the GTU International Geographical Honor Society, and as an active member of the NMU Conservation Crew. Becky has recently worked for SEEDS, an environmental nonprofit organization, dedicated to support ecology and environmental education. She also works for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a wildland firefighter. Becky's career goals include working for the U.S. Forest Service to pursue wildland firefighting or working to remove invasive species.



Amber Proudfoot

Brooklyn, Michigan • Michigan State University

Amber is a senior at Michigan State University majoring in fisheries and wildlife with concentrations in wildlife biology and wildlife disease ecology. She is passionate about raising awareness for amphibian and reptile conservation and is involved in several related projects. As the lead undergraduate for a herpetofauna monitoring program, Amber introduces new audiences to the amphibians and reptiles of Michigan. She also facilitates research experiences for fellow undergraduate students and works to make her own research accessible to public audiences. Over the summer Amber worked as a field technician at MSU's vector-borne disease lab assisting in tick and Lyme disease research. Amber plans to attend graduate school to continue pursuing wildlife conservation research.



Katie Steinhaus

Merrill, Michigan • Saginaw Valley State University

Katie will be entering her third year at Saginaw Valley State University majoring in environmental science and minoring in geospatial techniques. Katie has been hunting, fishing, and camping with her family and friends since she was a toddler. She recently served as a trip leader for SVSU Outdoor Adventures leading groups of her peers on their first backcountry hiking and white water rafting experiences. During the summer she worked for Chippewa Nature Center leading backpacking trips all over Michigan with middle and high school students. Katie also holds a water quality research position at the Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute gathering critical data for the environmental initiatives in the Saginaw Bay Watershed. After finishing her undergraduate studies, Katie hopes to enter the environmental science work field and attend graduate school after gaining more experience in the field.

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 \$27,500 in scholarships to undergraduate students in

ENGAGING NEW AUDIENCES WITH MICHIGAN'S RICH OUTDOOR HERITAGE

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Michigan. The application for the 2025 scholarship will be available beginning January 1, 2025, at www.muteroutdoorfund.org. The Muter Outdoor Fund has also helped support the Saginaw Bay Nature Festival spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Pinconning and Standish since 2019.

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

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