

Craig Tufts Environmental Education Fund 2010 Scholarship Winner

Jonah Wehr



Who he is:

Jonah is a twelve year old naturalist who just completed sixth grade at Holy Rosary School in Duluth, MN. Jonah received the "Mother Teresa" award at school for his volunteer hours, community spirit and generosity of character. He is an Honor student who participated in the Regional competition for National History Day and his documentary on Stealth Technology qualified for State this year, which competition was held on May 1st. He has always had a special interest in the outdoors. He plays golf, tennis, football and he skis, swims and fishes.



What he is doing to help the environment:

Jonah encourages his peer group to get outside and to attend camps at the Hartley Nature Center in his hometown of Duluth. He is committed to ensuring that the Hartley Nature Center remains a successful venue for education in the Duluth community by fundraising and volunteering. In kindergarten, Jonah raised over \$300 for Hartley at his birthday party by asking that his friends make a donation to the center rather than giving birthday presents. He was the guest speaker for the Hartley Nature Center fundraiser in second grade and he secured a "Nim's Island" grant for the center. He helps out at the Nature Center's camps for younger children as well as helping the director of the center catch and band birds for public programs.

Jonah would like to make a documentary about his experiences at the 2010 Family Summit to show at Hartley and at school. He says he wants all people, especially kids, to see how exciting it is outdoors.

Jonah is just one of the many people who makes Family Summits so special.

Know someone we should highlight? Email info@familysummits.org

About Craig Tufts

Craig was everyone's favorite naturalist. From the moment you met him, you liked what he was thinking and wanted to know more! He was excited about everything living and understood a tremendous amount about the natural world around him, no matter where he was. He could look at an insect under a log and tell you what its name was or what family it was in and what it was related to, what it probably ate for dinner and where it was going to lay its eggs.... It didn't matter if you were near his home in Northern Virginia or on a mountainside in Colorado, somehow Craig knew and remembered all these details! Being with Craig on a walk was like having a talking field guide beside you, with the words just pouring out. Craig was always happy to point things out to anyone, and was just as excited to see something for the fiftieth time as he was to see it for the first time! Craig worked for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for 33 years as Chief Naturalist. He passed away in 2009.

The Craig Tufts Environmental Education Fund is intended to continue Craig's legacy and to replicate the spark that he provided for so many because of his extensive knowledge of and appreciation for the natural world. The Fund will finance an annual award that recognizes an individual between the ages of 8 and 18 who displays an interest in the natural world. The award aims to foster that interest and encourage a lifelong path of environmental study. It is their hope that the Fund will provide an opportunity for a young person to experience, in a personally meaningful way, NWF's mission of inspiring individuals of all ages to care about and ultimately act to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Donations can be made to: National Wildlife Federation, Attn: Craig Tufts Volunteer Education Fund
11100 Wildlife Federation Drive, Reston, VA 20190.