

Craig Tufts Environmental Education Fund 2010 Scholarship Runner-Up

Seth Whiteaker



Who he is

Seth is genuine and passionate. He has an infectious laugh and appreciation for the world around him.

His Taekwondo instructor of 2-1/2 years says Seth must be "36 years old" and that "Seth won't grow up to be the President - he'll be the guy whispering in the President's ear."

As a 2nd grader, he won his elementary school's Take Time to Think Award for "demonstrating the theme of Questioning and Problem Posing." Winners of this award use the motto: We wonder why!

This is his first year at the Summit.



Seth enjoying nature

What he is doing to help the environment

- Seth is building a deep connection to nature by appreciating it during his childhood.
- Sets a good example by limiting his screen time in favor of reading or the outdoors.
- Values eating locally - learning from trips to the farms and farmers markets in his area. He's especially fond of sautéing and seasoning his own veggies.
- Would rather walk to school than drive. In fact, he's always been a fan of trains, buses, and other forms of public transit.
 - Recycles and doesn't drink water from plastic bottles.
- Uses his creative expression to explore and record nature through art and writing.
 - Stays on the trail and keeps a keen eye out for spotting wildlife.

Seth 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.