



## BEN CHRISTIANSON EARTH STEWARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

### PURPOSE

To perpetuate the memory and values of Ben Christianson through the annual awarding of the Earth Stewardship Scholarship in his honor to a graduating senior of Wausau East High School.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply online by visiting our website at [cfoncw.org](http://cfoncw.org). Click on "Grants & Scholarships" / "Scholarships" / "Apply Online Now" to reach the online application portal and begin the registration and application process. If this is your first visit to the site, you will need to "Create an Account." If this is a return visit, enter your email address and password. **Choose the Christianson/Hansen Scholarships application** from the menu.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** February 15

### YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- Transcript of most recent grades
- List of extracurricular activities (downloadable form online)

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

To be an Earth Steward encompasses more than being an activist, environmentalist, recycler, and taking note of water and energy consumption. It is a way of life and means to live with integrity, to be a giver, to appreciate beauty in nature, to be moved by the changes in the sun, moon, and stars, to possess a willingness to try new things, to have an incredible work ethic, to be a life-long learner, to live gently, and to be mindful of one's environment as well as to reach out to others when there is a need.

- Be a graduating senior from Wausau East High School;
- Dedicated to the environment;
- Displaying a strong work ethic, a desire to do things right, and to make things better;
- Demonstrating the characteristics of integrity, compassion, caring, empathy, and kindness;
- Preference will be given to students interested in pursuing an education and career in earth sciences;
- GPA is not a factor in selection.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The recipient will be announced at the Wausau East High School senior awards ceremony in the spring.

### PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The recipient will receive a congratulatory letter from the Community Foundation after the awards ceremony, instructing them on how to receive their scholarship funding. The student must provide proof of registration to the Community Foundation office for payment to be initiated. The Foundation will make payment directly to the college or university the student is attending.

Ben Christianson was born to Don and Jane Christianson on September 2, 1969, in Wausau and grew up in the John Marshall neighborhood on Wausau's southeast side. He graduated from Wausau East High School and the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a degree in hydrogeology. He worked for Ramaker & Associates, an engineering firm in Sauk City, and lived in Madison the final 26 years of his life.

An outdoorsman, adventurer, and music lover – Ben lived life to its fullest. His brother Jay recalls, "If Ben wanted to go somewhere, he went. If he wanted to do something, he did it. Ben went for it."

Summers were filled with fishing trips to the Turtle Flambeau Flowage with his friends, kayaking and biking, jogging, and other various outdoor activities. Being a typical Wisconsinite, fall meant deer hunting trips on the family's land with his brother, uncles, and cousin in an old fashioned log cabin. Winter meant downhill skiing and racing at Cascade Mountain or cross-country skiing wherever the best snow was to be found.

Ben Christianson was taken from his earthly life through a random act of violence on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 while working at a job site near Greenfield, Wisconsin. This scholarship was established by his family to perpetuate his memory for years to come.