

## Application for the William N. Walter Masonic Award

Erie Canal Masonic Lodge is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior from the current graduating class. As an organization, Masons around the world diligently work together to create a better experience for all humankind. Our work begins at home, within our own communities, to assure that all those whom we serve are enriched by this experience and are encouraged to positively impact their own corners of the world. Graduation is a point in one's life with great potential for positive change; to forever change not only the course of the graduate's life, but to change the world.

The crux of a Mason's mission comes in the form of self-development; moving from the darkness into the light. As the graduate is now advanced by their education in the light of new knowledge, the purpose of this scholarship is to further illuminate the scholar's path.

Unlike many scholarships, the criteria for this award is not based on academic merit, but on principles and values held by the recipient. The specific components tied to this scholarship reflect the Masonic virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Students applying for the William N. Walter Masonic Award must submit a short essay to the Erie Canal Lodge #141 Scholarship Committee addressing the accompanying criteria. Although this award is not confined to any particular discipline, aspiring applicants are encouraged to think of how they currently reflect the presented values and how they may continue to do so in their future professional endeavors.

From the values listed on the accompanying page (from Benevolence to Service), please briefly tell us of how you fulfill each of these important traits. Begin this brief essay with an introduction of yourself and anything that you feel is valuable to let the committee know. For example, your future plans of study and career may be something you wish to share, along with any information that you feel sets you apart for this scholarship.

Successful recipients of the award will receive \$500.00, along with a Lodge invitation to meet with members to celebrate the student's achievement. Note that this meeting is not mandatory in terms of receiving the award, but an acknowledgment to the student on a job well done. We would love to have an opportunity to meet the scholarship recipient and his or her family.

The deadline for essay submission is postmarked by May 15th. Please submit the completed essay by mailing it to the following address:

Erie Canal Lodge #141  
c/o Scholarship Committee  
2803 State Route 31 E.  
Weedsport, NY 13166

If you are chosen as a scholarship recipient, you will be notified by May 30th. As part of your essay please provide your preferred method of being contacted.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, please email us [eriecanallodge@gmail.com](mailto:eriecanallodge@gmail.com). We look forward to reading your work!

**Benevolence:** Masons are charged with serving their communities and fellow human beings whenever the opportunity arises. The recipient of this scholarship exhibits the quality of kindness and is always willing to offer a helping hand to those in need.

**Citizenship:** Masons place a high value on patriotism and commit to the ideals of exercising those qualities reflective of model citizens. The recipients of this scholarship also demonstrate commitment to the ideals of fairness, taking responsibility for one's actions, and valuing the viewpoints of others, even when this differs from one's own.

**Inquisitive:** As Masonry is constantly encouraging examination of the self and exploration of new ideas, the recipient must demonstrate a curiosity about the world around them. This may involve a demonstrated interest not only in the traditional curriculum but a curiosity in topics outside the classroom as well.

**Equality:** As Masons work to break down barriers that divide humankind, the recipient of this award exhibits the quality of accepting others as they are and serves to build bridges between people.

**Integrity:** As Masons are instructed to walk upright on the path to a more virtuous life, the recipients of this award must exhibit a tenacity to do what is right, even when this choice may be the more difficult road. They carry one's self as a person to be counted on to do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

**Service:** The recipient of this award maintains an interest in serving the school/community in some way. This service can be formal or informal, including plans to further education or enter a field where service is the hallmark of that profession.

## School District: Information on the William N. Walter Masonic Award

For this academic year (2024-2025), Erie Canal Lodge #141 is offering its scholarship based on the attached information provided to students. One award of \$500.00 will be given to a student based on the essay criteria below submitted to Erie Canal Lodge and selected by members of the Lodge's scholarship committee. Once chosen, the Lodge will contact the recipient and make arrangements to award them their scholarship. Please email [eriecanallodge@gmail.com](mailto:eriecanallodge@gmail.com) with any questions about the process and forward any essays that may be submitted to you to the following address:

Erie Canal Lodge #141  
c/o Scholarship Committee  
2803 State Route 31 E.  
Weedsport, NY 13166

Thank you for your assistance,

Seth Molloy  
Chairman  
Erie Canal Lodge #141 Scholarship Committee0