

THE UTZINGER VELLEKAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Criteria and Application Guidelines

What the Award is. The Utzinger-Vellekamp Scholarship is an unrestricted grant (up to \$1000) that was originally established in 2001 to assist college-bound high school seniors who excel in their studies and who plan to use their talents and expertise in the service of environmental protection. It is named for two Founding trustees who passed away while serving on our board.

- **Mr. Ronald Vellekamp** was a Tenafly, NJ resident who taught science classes at Ridgefield Junior-Senior High School. He was also a part-time ranger at Palisades Interstate Park, Boy Scout leader and Tenafly Nature Center volunteer.
- **Ms. Margaret Utzinger** spent much her life working to protect the Hackensack River, first with the Hackensack River Coalition, then with Mr. Vellekamp and Captain Bill Sheehan, helping to found – and oversee – Hackensack Riverkeeper.

Each year, one applicant is chosen from among the current year's graduating class to receive this scholarship in their honor. Note that *only* students who reside and/or attend school within the boundaries of the Hackensack River Watershed are eligible to apply. For a complete list of watershed communities, go to www.hackensackriverkeeper.org/about-us/our-partners/ or call Program Director Hugh Carola at 201-403-1992.

In addition to the above restriction, all applicants must:

1. Have been accepted by an accredited college or university for the upcoming fall semester, and;
2. Plan to major or minor in one of the natural sciences or other appropriate subject, and;
3. Demonstrate a strong personal commitment to the environment.

Nominations. The application* must be submitted by the high school on behalf of the student nominee. Each school may nominate one student for the award. We suggest that the nomination come from a student's guidance counselor or faculty advisor.

***The application.** On high school letterhead, please list:

1. The student's name and complete contact information including phone and e-mail.
2. The name of the nominating school and complete faculty contact information.
3. A 150-word essay (written by the nominee) discussing the reasons why he or she is applying for the Scholarship.

Please enclose the following with the application:

1. A copy of the student's current high school transcripts;
2. A copy of the Letter of Acceptance from the college or university where the nominee will be matriculating in the upcoming fall semester;
3. A description of the student's extracurricular activities as regards environmental / conservation issues (e.g. Environmental Club membership, Scouting merit badges / awards, participation in local conservation efforts, membership in environmental organizations, applicable hobbies, etc.)

All nominations MUST be postmarked no later than Earth Day, April 22 and mailed to:

UTZINGER-VELLEKAMP SCHOLARSHIP
C/O Hackensack Riverkeeper
231 Main Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601

The decision process. A panel comprised of Hackensack Riverkeeper Trustees and staff will review all applications. The winner of this year's UTZINGER VELLEKAMP SCHOLARSHIP will be chosen no later than

June 1; and the award presented no later than June 30. If possible, the award will be presented publicly at the school's annual awards event. The winner will also be featured in an issue of *Hackensack Tidelines*, the official publication of Hackensack Riverkeeper.

Trustees, employees and interns of Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc. & their family members; and active, regular members of Hackensack Riverkeeper's volunteer corps are ineligible to apply.