

Intent of the 2015 Allison W. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Allison W. Smith was described as a fearless, confident, respectful, and gracious individual who identified early in life her passion for learning and her desire to use her talents, skills and intelligence to improve life for others. Allison was a person who set goals and achieved them. She was a scholar and an athlete, a leader, and a devoted friend with a humble spirit. She lit up the lives of others with her warmth, caring, and infectious energy and good cheer. She lived intentionally, asking probing questions, and was determined to make a positive difference in the world and her community. She lost her life tragically in car accident on Feb. 12, 2015 when an oncoming vehicle crossed the center line and hit her vehicle. Her family chooses to honor her memory by awarding a scholarship at the Senior Excellence in Academics Ceremony at Harrisonville High School to a female student athlete in leadership who will pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited four year college or university.

Allison attended school in the Harrisonville School System until her sophomore year, participating in cross country and basketball her Freshman year, earning the Horizon Award and a varsity letter in basketball. In Student Government, she served as President of her Freshman Class. She played snare drum and marimba in the Harrisonville High School Band and participated in theatre. She received the Excellence in Academics Award. Pursuing a college preparatory curriculum, Smith applied and was accepted at the Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City in 1999 as a sophomore. She graduated from Pembroke Hill in 2002.

At Pembroke Hill, Smith earned five varsity letters, two in cross country and three in track. She participated in field hockey, basketball, cross country and track, distinguishing herself in athletics as the 2000 Missouri State 5K Champion in only her second season of running. She was also a school record holder in the 5K, two time all-state runner, and All-Metro first team in cross country. She won the 3200 Missouri State Title in Track in 2001 and 2002. Nationally, Allison was the overall champion at the AAU Junior Championships in December of 2001 in the 5K event. She was recognized as the KC Star All Metro Cross Country Girl's Runner of the Year in 2000, the KC Star Athlete of the Week, and the Pembroke Hill School female nomination for the Metro Sports Television Network Athlete of the Year. She was team captain of the track team from 2001-2002 and team captain of the cross country team in 2001. Smith competed in the Midwest Regional Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 2001 placing 19th out of 408 finishers from the 15 states in the Midwest region in the 5000 meter race with a time of 18.52. She was the first Missouri entrant to cross the finish line.

At Pembroke Hill, she was a two time recipient of the Raider Award for Team Leadership recognizing commitment, dedication, desire, and, positive contributions in track and cross country that have earned the respect of teammates and coaches.

Academically, Smith was recognized on the Headmaster's Distinctive Achievement List and the High Honor Roll. She received the Cecil P. Coad History Award. At Pembroke Hill she was Vice-President of Student Government, a member of Madrigal Singers, and she participated in Common Ground. Smith

was selected as one of 25 metro area high school seniors from the Kansas City area to participate in AWARE a mentoring program of the International Relations Council of Kansas City.

Allison received the President's Student Service Challenge Award for 100 hours of community service in one year as a Junior. She participated in two homebuilding projects for Habitat for Humanity in 2001 in San Francisco and Santo Domingo, Ecuador. She attended the national Student Leadership Conference on International Diplomacy in the Summer of 2002 and also volunteered at Kids Across America, St. Luke's Hospital and Senior Citizen's Thanksgiving Dinner programs during high school.

Allison attended Dartmouth College graduating in 2006. She earned a BA in Environmental Policy at Dartmouth where she was on the varsity cross country and track teams and was an enthusiastic member of the Dartmouth Outing Club. She earned an MS in Environmental Law at Vermont Law School in 2007.

An accomplished marathoner and triathlete, Allison loved the outdoors and was also an avid hiker, biker, and swimmer. She completed the Boston Marathon in 2011, qualifying for the New York Marathon. At the time of her death, she had nearly completed an MBA at Babson College.

Allison worked as an analyst for the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE), which represents the collective interests of the six New England states. She cared deeply about the long term climate implications of our energy choices and focused on forward looking clean energy issues like solar power.

Allison will be recognized in April 2015 at the New England Women in Energy and the Environment Award Gala which celebrates the accomplishments of women leaders in the fields of energy and environment who have achieved professional excellence within their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for other women in similar or related professional areas.

The intent of this scholarship award in memory of Smith is to encourage and support the Senior female student athlete who strives for excellence in academics and sportsmanship, a student who demonstrates passion to engage in the world through leadership and/or innovative ideas to make the global and/or local community better for others, and who exemplifies the following characteristics:

- 1) A person of strong character and integrity
- 2) An inclusive person who encourages and respects others
- 3) A fearless and confident competitor who reflects good sportsmanship and best effort in all endeavors
- 4) An inspirational leader with a positive outlook motivated by her self-generated sunshine and energy.
- 5) A student who demonstrates a commitment to leadership to make the global or local community better for others.

Requirements:

To be considered for the Allison W. Smith Memorial Scholarship Award, a student must meet the following criteria.

- 1) Be a Senior female student athlete at the Harrisonville Senior High School.
- 2) At the time of application, the student must have a GPA of 3.6 or above.
- 3) Complete a full application by the closing date.
- 4) Demonstrate a commitment to challenge herself to set goals and strive for achievements that broaden her experiences and enlarge her horizons.
- 5) A person of strong character and integrity
- 6) An inclusive person who encourages and respects others
- 7) A fearless and confident competitor who reflects good sportsmanship and best effort in all endeavors
- 8) An inspirational leader with a positive outlook motivated by her self-generated sunshine and energy.
- 9) A student who demonstrates a commitment to leadership to make the global or local community better for others.

Essay:

The successful candidate must include a one page essay (double spaced) on one of the following topics:

- 1) Describe how you see yourself using leadership skills and/or innovative ideas now or in the future to engage a special interest or personal passion of yours to create a better world for others.
- 2) Discuss a project or plan that you have completed in high school or will implement in college or your community that will encourage others to take action to preserve and protect the environment for the enjoyment of others in the future.
- 3) Describe an experience in which you have challenged your comfort zone, expanded your personal view of the world or gained perspective and understanding through travel, experience, or interaction with others. What did you learn? How will this affect your outlook in the future?

Duration and Amount of Award

This is a one time, non-renewable award to be awarded to one female student annually.

\$2,000 Annual Award. Funds must be used to support college expenses at a four-year institution.

Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of at least two foundation members, one coach or the Activities Director and one veteran teacher with five or more years experience.

Applicants must complete the online application.

Applicants must complete a choice of one of three attached essay questions.

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation that include one from a current teacher, coach or a non-family community member.

The Review Committee will select candidates for the award by reviewing their essays, letters of reference, and accomplishments with special emphasis placed on characteristics reflective of the life that Allison Smith led described above.

The Review Committee will select two finalists who will be interviewed by the scholarship review committee prior to the selection and award of the scholarship.

The award shall be presented at the Senior Excellence in Academics Ceremony. A member of the Smith Family shall be notified of the award winner prior to presentation and shall be present if possible at the event.

*This scholarship shall be awarded without regard to race, color, creed, religious preference, age, national origin, or disability.