

Marianne Beel Memorial Scholarship Criteria

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of long-time NPW member Marianne Beel. Marianne loved the Sandhills and shared that love through her writing and photography. Her column “Sand in My Shoes” was much beloved by readers of the North Platte Telegraph and her writing and photography appeared there and in many other publications over the years.

Criteria include:

- 1) Scholarship is presented to a graduating Nebraska High School senior.
- 2) That said student is a writer and/or photographer in the general category of rural Nebraska, with preference given to Sandhills subject matter.
- 3) Preference will be given to applicants from the Sandhills (counties include Custer, Logan, McPherson, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Rock, Keya Paha, Holt, Valley, Wheeler, Greeley, Brown and Cherry)
- 4) Preferred if applicant is seeking some type of post-secondary degree or certificate (not necessarily a four-year school) in a communications-related field.
- 5) Applicant needs to submit three examples of subject-related work, which may be any combination of writing or photography (including video).
- 6) Complete an application form and attach a copy of their high school transcript with current GPA, one letter of reference and a resume outlining contributions to the community, i.e., church, 4-H, volunteer work such as Meals on Wheels, community celebrations, etc.
- 7) Application will include a description of the scholarship and outline the criteria above and basic biographical information of the applicant. It will also have a section for a 250-word essay on their choice of topics: 1) What living in rural Nebraska has meant to them; 2) The value of agriculture in Nebraska; 3) The beauty of Nebraska; or 4) the value of rural Nebraska.

Method of Distribution/Notification

Information will be posted on the ScholarshipQuest website, as well as available for download on the NPW website.

In addition, stories announcing the scholarship will be sent to selected Nebraska news outlets, specifically targeting newspapers in the Sandhills circulation area.