



## **2025 Master Gardener Don Tapio Scholarship Application Instructions**

The Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties Master Gardeners Don Tapio Scholarship is named for the man who is the epitome of “paying it forward”. As a young man Don almost had to quit college when his father lost his job at a plywood plant, but his Professor of Horticulture, Elwood Walter Kalin Sr, saved the day by arranging for Don to receive a scholarship from the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs. He went on to a successful 36-year career as a Washington State University extension agent, never forgetting the garden clubs which helped him in his time of need.

He supported local garden clubs and the early Master Gardener program and delivered hundreds of public speaking engagements as a way to say thank you. Though retired, he continues to support the Olympia Garden Club with trees and cuttings for their annual holiday wreath sales that provide grants to Thurston County communities.

### **Amount of Award:**

One \$3,500.00 scholarship for 2025.

### **Scholarship Selection Criteria:**

- Graduating senior (to include home school and alternative school students) attending a high school in Grays Harbor or Pacific counties.
- Elected academic major in a horticulture/life sciences-related field that includes, but is not limited to: horticulture, agriculture, biology, botany, chemistry, entomology, environmental science, forestry, genetics, landscape design, sustainable agriculture, urban geography, urban planning and horticulture-related business.
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

### **Application Requirements:**

- A current transcript.
- One letter of recommendation from a high school teacher or staff member.
- One letter of recommendation from a community member.
- A resume to include extracurricular activities, community service, leadership, and work experience (not to exceed two pages, 14 font).
- An essay (criteria in next section).

### Essay Criteria:

- **Mission statement** - WSU Master Gardeners are dedicated volunteers who are passionate about the mission of the WSU Master Gardener program to deliver science-based information to Washington State communities that helps to conserve and enhance our natural resources while improving the quality of life and wellbeing of Washington state residents.
- **Essay question** - The Master Gardeners' primary mission is to educate the public in gardening and natural resources. Considering this mission, how do you see yourself contributing to the community in your area of study?
- **Essay Format** - Double-spaced, 14 font, and not to exceed two pages or in lieu of a written essay, a video of 5 minutes or less answering the essay question would be accepted.

### Application Process:

Applicants will submit all required documents to the Grays Harbor County WSU Extension Office by May 31, 2025 at 4:00 PM **(POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2025)**.

If applicants have questions, they can contact Katie Lutz at [katielutz15@gmail.com](mailto:katielutz15@gmail.com) or 360-292-8917.

### Drop off address:

WSU Extension - Grays Harbor County  
34 Elma-McCleary Road  
Elma, WA 98541

### Mailing address:

WSU Extension - Grays Harbor County  
PO Box 3018  
Elma, WA 98541-3018

### Scholarship Decision:

- The selection of the recipient will be under the direction of the Don Tapio Scholarship Committee.
- Applicants will be notified by mail of the decision.
- Scholarship monies will be sent directly to the college/university cashier's office in the recipient's name.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.