

ICF Announces 2013 Conservation Achievement Scholarship Program Winners

Students Recognized For Efforts at Natural Resources Protection and Enhancement

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) today announced the winners of the 2013 ICF Conservation Achievement Scholarships, an outreach program recognizing high school seniors in Illinois who have demonstrated outstanding efforts to preserve, protect, enhance and promote Illinois' natural resources.

Applicants are evaluated on their initiative, leadership, long-term participation, positive impact on Illinois, and variety of actions in regard to their natural resources conservation activities.

The winners of the 2013 ICF Conservation Achievement Scholarships are:

\$2,000 Scholarship: Boryana Borisova, Elgin High School

Boryana has been actively involved in organizing and leading environmental groups throughout her high school career. She started the I Am the Difference club, whose members are working to improve the natural resources in Illinois and globally, particularly in relation to water. She has invested much time removing invasive exotic plant species and collecting seeds from native plants in order to restore biodiversity to Illinois habitats. Her efforts will have long-term positive effects on the natural resources of Illinois.

\$2,000 Scholarship, Kyle Feldker, Valmeyer High School

Kyle is passionate about preserving natural habitats. He has planted thousands of trees in reforestation efforts and dedicated many hours to removing invasive, exotic plant species that are threatening mature forests. Kyle also helped to establish a hiking trail through a wooded area, thus providing access to many people who will benefit from the beauty and wonders of our natural world.

\$2,000 Scholarship: Elijah Houck, Alton High School

Elijah has volunteered hundreds of hours since he was in seventh grade as a camp counselor teaching students about the environment. He has also led environmental education activities at public events and conducted water quality testing in local streams. Elijah's enthusiasm for Illinois' natural heritage and knowledge of how it works has been conveyed to hundreds of students. Educating our future conservation leaders is an important task.