

GLADYS BLACK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Gladys Black Scholarship Fund was created to memorialize Gladys Black and to launch the careers of the next generation of conservationists and naturalists from Marion County, Iowa. An applicant must be a resident of Marion County and/or a graduate of a Marion County high school and have demonstrated academic achievement, leadership qualities, and service to community. Applicants also must be embarking on a course of study in a conservation or natural resource related field. Scholarship funds are awarded contingent upon the recipient being accepted as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a fully accredited college or university.

Application Deadline: The Red Rock Environmental Education Fund (RREEF) must receive completed applications by April 1, 2008.

Scholarship Amount: \$250 - \$1000

Scholarship to be awarded for the 2008-2009 academic year.

A Brief History

Gladys Black was a self-taught birder and writer. She was born and raised in Pleasantville and completed a B.S. in public nursing. Her lifelong learning, however, revolved around ornithology. Black spent more than 35 years in Iowa doing volunteer work with birds, identifying bird species in the Red Rock region, and writing newspaper columns and books on Iowa birds. She never tired of taking children and adults alike "under her wing" to teach them about her beloved birds, and she tirelessly promoted habitat protection and environmental education in the region.

In 2004 the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, a statewide nonprofit conservation organization, purchased a 38-acre woodland adjoining the Des Moines River just below the tailrace of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. An important roosting site for wintering bald eagles, the area was frequented by Gladys—Iowa's "bird lady." The woodland is now known as the Gladys Black Bald Eagle Refuge and is owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Funds in excess of those needed to purchase and protect the Gladys Black Bald Eagle Refuge were directed to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation endowment to establish the Gladys Black Scholarship Fund. **The scholarship is intended to honor Gladys and refocus attention on her tireless dedication to birds, habitat, and environmental education in the region.**

The Red Rock Environmental Education Fund (RREEF) administers the Gladys Black Scholarship. Questions can be directed to Jack Bensink, RREEF Chairman, at 641.891.3026 or 515.848.3769.

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NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ HIGH SCHOOL PHONE _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____ CITY _____

H.S. GRADUATION DATE _____ GPA&CLASS RANK _____ / _____ ACT SCORE _____

COLLEGE YOU WILL BE OR ARE ATTENDING _____

ADVISOR(S) NAME(S) _____

DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES, INTERESTS, AND/OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO CONSERVATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. _____

IN WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN SCHOOL? _____

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL? _____

A Checklist of Materials to be Submitted:

- This completed application form.
- Two letters of recommendation from people who can speak to your conservation interests, activities, and accomplishments.
- A typed statement (no more than one page in length) of your interests in and plans for a course of study and career in a conservation or natural resource related field.
- A copy of your high school transcript or current college transcript.
- All materials are due April 1. Send to: **Gladys Black Scholarship Fund, c/o Red Rock Environmental Education Fund, 1445 Lake Dr., Suite 1, P.O. Box 47, Knoxville, IA 50138.**