

The Taylor Cunningham Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 when Taylor Cunningham was killed in an automobile accident the night before the start of lacrosse season. Taylor was a senior at Hereford High School and the starting goalie of the lacrosse team. Taylor enjoyed fishing, archery, canoeing, snowboarding and playing sports. He played football while at Hereford, was a county wrestling champion and co-captain, but his greatest passion was lacrosse. Taylor started his lacrosse experience as a first grader with the Hereford Rec Council. He continued to play through Hereford's Rec Council until he entered high school. Taylor was one of three Cunningham brothers who played for Hereford during their eight years leading up to high school. While in middle school Taylor's coach encouraged him to be a goalie when no other player would take the spot. He was hooked. Taylor continued to play lacrosse at Hereford High School. He loved the game and the friendships that he developed. He would often leave practice at the high school and drive to the middle school to help with his younger brother's team.

The scholarship fund was originally established through donations to Hereford High School immediately following Taylor's death. The Hereford community continued to support the scholarship for 6 years with March Madness, a basketball fundraiser held at the high school. However, the high school decided this year that they would no longer host the event. Friends and family of Taylor have also continued to contribute to the scholarship fund.

The Scholarship is a blind application meaning that a form and essay are completed but there is no name attached. Applicants write an essay about how sports have impacted their lives and what they have learned from being part of a team. All monies are held through Hereford High School and the checks are submitted directly to the recipient's college by Hereford High. The recipients are decided by Kim and Matt Cunningham and also with input from the school. They look for qualities similar to those that Taylor showed each and every day during his life. The recipient must be involved with sports during their years at Hereford

and show a love of their sport. It is also important that the recipient have a financial need for the scholarship. Often times the student has faced challenges which they have had to work hard to overcome. To date, the Scholarship Fund has awarded almost 20 scholarships totaling over \$60,000.