

Michigan Class D Cross-Country Association

Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship



“Dark, unreasonable fear can twist and grind an individual... It is necessary to dig deep within oneself to discover that hidden grain of steel called will.” - Ryan Shay, 1997

This scholarship was established in 2016 by the *Michigan Class D Cross Country Coaches Association* in memory of Ryan Shay who passed away from sudden cardiac arrest on November 3, 2007, while competing in the 2007 United States Olympic Marathon Trials in New York City. Ryan grew up in the rural northern Michigan town of Central Lake, and graduated as a valedictorian from Central Lake High School in 1997. He earned numerous awards and recognitions as a high school distance runner and won four consecutive MHSAA class D cross-country state championships in the scholastic cross-country seasons of 1994-1997. After graduating from high school, he ran for the University of Notre Dame where he became the most decorated athlete in Notre Dame’s history. He became a professional world class runner after graduating, with honors, from the University of Notre Dame, and specialized in the marathon distance.

The *Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship* is a way for the *Michigan Class D Cross-Country Coaches Association* to give back to the running community to foster a passion for the sport and to demonstrate a commitment to youth running programs in schools with a small student population. Through distribution of these scholarship funds, the association will support the sport of running with academic excellence while encouraging healthy, productive, and disciplined lifestyles.

Michigan Class D Cross-Country Coaches Association

Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship Application

Scholarships are supported by the fund raising efforts of the

Michigan Class D Cross-country State Championship

Race Directors, volunteers, and coaches.

Scholarship Selection by:

Committee of Michigan Class D Cross-country State Championship race directors and selected members of the Michigan Class D Coaches Assoc.

Award Amounts:

\$1000 per scholarship to one (1) male and one (1) female recipient.

Award disbursement:

Scholarship will be paid upon submission to selection committee of a copy for first semester tuition bill to the college/university at which the student is enrolled

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicant will be a graduate of a verifiable Michigan class D school district
- May be a male or female student athlete
- Must be a senior and have competed in the 2021 Michigan Class D Cross-Country State Championship
- Must have been accepted by a two or four year college/university as a full time student
- Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA

Required Materials:

- Scholarship application form
- Brief essay of two (2) typewritten pages
- Latest transcript with cumulative Grade Point Average through first semester of senior year and best ACT and/or SAT score
- One (1) letter of recommendation from a Coach, Athletic Director, or Teacher describing why they feel you should receive this award
- One (1) letter of recommendation from a non-family member describing why they feel you should receive this award
- Provide each letter writer an envelope to be sealed by the writer before given to you for inclusion with your completed application submission
- Signature of counselor or principal verifying cumulative GPA
- Copy of letter for acceptance as a full time student to a two or four year college or university

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Helpful Tips

- Do your best work. Make sure that the information you provide is complete and accurate.
- All application responses must be type written.
- Do not use abbreviations or slang in the Activity or Essay sections.
- Complete all sections of the application. Review your completed application before submitting, correcting any typos
- Treat your application like a resume. Show the selection committee your potential, what you've done and how you've already begun to make your mark in the world.
- Use the Activity and Essay sections to share what makes you unique.
- Submit the correct transcript(s). Your application will be invalidated without the correct transcripts – no exceptions.
- Include all pages of the application

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Cover Page

Student Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street/P.O. Box No. City Zip

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names: _____

College you will attend: _____

Part-Time or Full-time Student _____

Program of Study: _____

Current G.P.A: _____ (include copy of high school transcript)

ACT and/or SAT Score(s): _____

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Athletic Activity

List all high school sports and club sports for which you were a member, how many years you were a member, and events that you competed in. Describe any significant achievements, including letters and/or awards earned. List your best running events and times.

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Extra Curricular Activity

List any activities outside of sports in which you have participated; including, but not limited to clubs, band, youth groups, service organizations, community outreach, etc.

Michigan Class D Coaches Association Ryan Shay Memorial Scholarship Application Essay

The following excerpt is from Ryan's 1997 high school graduation commencement speech:

Although not everyone is going to win in life, everyone can set personal goals. Striving to reach the goal is an achievement in itself. Satisfaction comes from knowing you've given it your best shot. When you've done everything you know how to do and then don't master it, you can still feel successful. Then you will never have to look back and say "if only I had tried!" Remember, "a loser is one who does not accomplish anything without even trying". - Ryan Shay, 1997

Discover Ryan Shay by researching the internet and You Tube videos and then describe (in two typewritten pages) what character attributes you may share in common with Ryan and how this scholarship would help you achieve your goals.

OR

Tell us about a time or circumstance when you had to face an obstacle or fear and found it necessary to "dig deep within yourself to discover that grain of steel called will" to overcome it.

Attach completed essay to application.

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Along with this application, please submit your high school transcript as well as two letters of recommendation; one from a non-family member and one from a teacher/coach/Athletic Director.

Obtain the following signatures:

I certify that _____ has earned a cumulative GPA of _____ for
applicant name
grades 9-11 and first semester of grade 12.

Counselor or Principal Signature

Date

I certify that the answers provided in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student applicant Signature

Date

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Application Checklist:

Completed application _____

Printed/Typed Athletic Activity _____

Printed/Typed Extra Curricular Activity _____

Typed two (2) page Essay (attach to application) _____

Copy of High School Transcript _____

Copy of ACT and/or SAT scores _____

Coach/AD/Teacher letter of recommendation (in sealed envelope) _____

Non-Family member letter of recommendation (in sealed envelope) _____

Copy of 2 yr. or 4 yr. college or university acceptance letter _____

Verification signature of cumulative GPA _____

Student applicant signature _____

Please return all items postmarked by April 2, 2022, to:

MCDCCA
5873 Hosler Leisure Lane
East Jordan, MI 49727

If you have questions, please email smshay51@gmail.com or phone: (231) 420-2311