

2016 Alaska Masters Swimming Memorial Scholarship Results

Will Pate of Sitka is the 2016 Alaska Masters Swimming Memorial Scholarship recipient. There were three applicants this year, Will from Sitka, one candidate from Palmer, and one candidate from Ketchikan. The Committee gave Will their highest marks with the top score of 28 points (out of a possible 29). The competition was close, and all three of the applicants were excellent.

Will will be graduating from Sitka High School in May where he holds a 3.98 GPA. His transcripts include a broad range of classes, from arts to sciences. Will has taken and is taking several AP classes, again covering a wide range, from Language & Composition to Statistics. It is evident from his transcript and recommendations that Will very definitely has an aptitude for the dramatic arts and debate, but his interest and participation in open water ocean swimming and recent summer work with the Sitka Sound Science Center has led him in the direction of a new interest in marine and environmental science. It is not surprising that someone as tenacious and articulate as Will is also the president of the Sitka High School Senior Class.

As a student-athlete, Will excelled as a member of the Sitka High School's varsity swim team for four years. He participated in the Alaska State Swimming Championships meet every year of his high school swimming career. He finished 11th in the 500 freestyle his freshman year, 3rd his sophomore year, 2nd his junior year, and finally finished 1st his senior year, with the 4th fastest Alaska State High School time in the 500 freestyle. During his senior year, he was elected captain of the Sitka High School Swim Team. In addition to high school swimming, Will has been a member of the Baranof Barracudas Swim Club since he was 7. He helped start an open-water swim program and finished 1st in the under 18 Change Your Latitude Sitka open-water 3k swim this last summer.

Along with Will's challenging course load and involvement in swimming, he has also been active as a volunteer in various school and community activities. He is involved in Sitka High Mock Trial and has served as a Junior class representative and Senior Class President on the Sitka High School Student Council. Will has also been a member of the Sitka Youth Symphony/Symphonic Band since grade 6.

The Scholarship Committee and Alaska Masters Swimming would like to congratulate Will and wish him the best of success in his educational future and his involvement in giving back to the swimming community.

The 2016 Scholarship Committee:

Joleen White, Hanshew Middle School, Physical Education

Colny Tucker, Gruening Middle School, Physical Education, Retired

Ken Winterberger, Chairperson