

Erik C. Menyhart Memorial Scholarship | Sailing

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Erik Christopher Menyhart Memorial Scholarship was created to honor the life and legacy of Erik Menyhart—a bright, kind-hearted, and fiercely dedicated sailor who left a lasting impact on his teammates, coaches, and community.

Erik began sailing at the age of five at his beloved Hyannis Yacht Club and quickly fell in love with the sport. He started racing Optimist dinghies at age eight and became a top sailor on the Opti Race Team, where he sailed with his younger sister, Lilly. He later advanced to double-handed C420 sailing—often with his older sister, Sophie—and eventually to Laser Radial racing at just 13. Erik's sailing career spanned local, regional, national and international circuits, and he was widely recognized for his skill, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Beyond racing, Erik was a generous teammate and an inspiring mentor. He proudly served as a junior instructor at HYC, teaching younger Opti sailors the techniques he had honed. He also competed on the St. John Paul II Varsity Sailing Team from 7th grade onward, helping secure team championships and representing his school with sportsmanship and integrity.

Erik believed deeply in hard work, being a good teammate, and giving back. This scholarship celebrates young sailors who carry those same values forward.

OBJECTIVE

The Erik Christopher Menyhart Memorial Scholarship supports young sailors who embody Erik's spirit, demonstrating:

- A deep and sustained passion for sailing
- Leadership, sportsmanship, humility and dedication to a team, uplifting their teammates
- A genuine interest in mentoring and supporting younger sailors
- Sail with passion, perseverance, and humility
- Take time to mentor and support younger sailors
- Show respect for the sport and for others on and off the water
- Commitment to continuing their sailing journey

By honoring young sailors who reflect Erik's values, this scholarship seeks to encourage not only competitive excellence but also character, leadership, and community. This scholarship honors the kind of sailor Erik was—skilled, humble, team-oriented, and always ready to help others thrive.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be one of the following:
 - A **club sailor** with **plans to continue sailing in the upcoming season and/or at the collegiate level**
 - A **high school junior or senior** who **intends to sail on a college sailing team**
 - A **current sailing instructor** who is an **active member of a college sailing team**
- Be between the ages of approximately 16 and 22
- Demonstrate strong commitment to the sport of sailing
- Show active involvement in mentoring, coaching, or encouraging younger sailors
- Embody Erik's core values: passion for sailing, dedication, leadership, integrity, humility, kindness, and team spirit

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, candidates must submit:

1. **Completed Application Form** (available from the Scholarship Committee)
2. **Personal Statement** (500–750 words) including:
 - Your sailing background and future goals
 - Your role as an instructor or mentor, and what it has meant to you
 - Your plans for collegiate sailing
 - How this scholarship would support your journey
3. **Letter of Recommendation** from a coach, instructor, sailing director, or club leader who can speak to your sailing, character, and mentorship
4. *(Optional)* Photos or a short video reflecting your involvement with coaching, racing, or team leadership

Deadline: August 10, 2026

Submission: Email materials to ecmmemorialscholarship@gmail.com

SELECTION CRITERIA

Recipients will be selected based on:

- **Mentorship & Instruction** – Dedication to teaching and uplifting younger sailors
- **Passion for Sailing** – Consistent engagement and clear future goals in the sport
- **Leadership & Character** – Reflection of Erik's values: sportsmanship, humility, and team-mindedness
- **Commitment to College Sailing** – Verified involvement or strong intent to compete at the collegiate level

This scholarship is awarded not just to strong sailors—but to great people who leave a positive and lasting impact on their teams and communities.

AWARD

Scholarships will be awarded annually to one recipient in the amount of \$2,000.

Funds may be used toward:

- College sailing-related expenses
- Regatta travel
- Coaching or equipment
- Instructional development (e.g., instructor certification)

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

SAILING AFFILIATION

Current Sailing Club: _____

College / High School: _____

Grade Level or Year in College in upcoming academic year:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ High School Junior | ☐ College Freshman | ☐ College Junior |
| ☐ High School Senior | ☐ College Sophomore | ☐ College Senior |

Do you currently serve as a sailing instructor (junior or otherwise)?

- ☐ Yes (If yes, please briefly describe your role and experience below)
- ☐ No

Are you currently on a college sailing team?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If not yet in college, have you committed to sail on a college team?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please name the college and team (if known):

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ An essay or personal statement that covers the following topics (500–750 words):
 1. Describe your personal sailing journey and what the sport has meant to you.
 2. How have you served as a mentor, role model, or instructor to younger sailors?
 3. What are your plans for continuing sailing in college and beyond?
 4. What would receiving this scholarship mean to you?
- ☐ One Letter of Recommendation (coach, instructor, or club leader)
- ☐ (*Optional*) Sailing photos or short video (link or file)

SIGNATURE

By signing below, I confirm that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature:

Date:
