****

**The Captain Billy Knowles Memorial Scholarship** *Presented by the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Foundation*

The Captain Billy Knowles Memorial Scholarship, presented by the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association (FKFGA), honors the remarkable life and legacy of Captain Billy Knowles, who passed away in 2022. A true legend in the fishing world, Captain Billy was a founding father of the Florida Keys fishing guide community. Known for his unwavering resolve, mastery of his craft, and dedication to preserving the waters of the Upper Keys, he helped shape the identity and values of generations of guides and anglers.

Captain Billy’s legacy lives on through his multigenerational family, who remain pillars of the Upper Keys fishing community. In his honor, this scholarship supports graduating Coral Shores High School students involved in the local fishing community who plan to further their education in college or trade school. It is intended for students who demonstrate a strong connection to the Upper Keys and embody Captain Billy’s values of perseverance, community service, environmental stewardship, and passion for our local waters.

Through this scholarship, the FKFGA proudly supports the next generation of stewards, leaders, and changemakers who will help preserve and protect the fishing industry that Islamorada was built upon. As the community’s #1 industry and the backbone of its economy, fishing has shaped Islamorada’s identity as the "Fishing Capital of the World." Protecting this vital resource is essential to ensuring the future of the community and honoring the legacy of those, like Captain Billy Knowles, who helped establish it.

This scholarship is open to all students (with preference given to applicants whose family are current or past members of the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association).

**Completed applications and attachments must be emailed to** **info@fkfga.org** **or mailed to P.O. Box 936, Islamorada, FL 33036 by May 15, 2025.**

**Applicant Information:**

* Full Name:
* Date of Birth:
* Mailing Address:
* Email Address:
* Phone Number:
* Parent/Guardian Name(s):
* Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

**Academic Information:**

* High School Name:
* Graduation Year:
* GPA (Unweighted/Weighted):
* College or Trade School Planning to Attend:
* Intended Major/Field of Study:

**Extracurricular Activities & Community Involvement:**

* List any school extracurricular activities you have participated in:

* List any community service or volunteer activities:

* Describe any leadership roles you have held:

* List any awards or honors received:
* List any work experience (jobs held):

**Fishing & Conservation Experience:**

* Do you have experience with fishing, guiding, or marine conservation? If so, please describe:

* Have you participated in any conservation efforts, internships, or projects related to marine conservation or fishing? If yes, explain:

**Additional Information:**

* Do you have any family members who are fishing guides or involved in the fishing industry?
* If yes, please provide details and how this involvement has impacted your life.

* Are they members of the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association? If yes, please provide name(s).

* Are there any financial hardships you would like the committee to consider? If so, please explain.

**Required Documents: Submit the following to** **info@fkfga.org** **no later than May 15, 2025.**

* Completed application
* Two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher or school official, one from a community leader or mentor)
* A copy of your college or trade school acceptance letter (if available)

**Certification:** I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false statements may result in disqualification.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_