# **THE HERNÁNDEZ SCHOOL PRAYER AWARD**

Ricardo "Ricky" Hernandez, Form of 1991, embodied the sentiments of the School prayer. He grew up in Santa Ana, California, and earned a full scholarship to St. Paul's where he served as captain of the varsity baseball team. Although he was recognized as an All-League performer and earned various accolades like the Douglas Baseball Medal, Ricky was always humble, kind, and had a smile to share with everyone.

He lost his life to leukemia at the young age of 26.

**To honor his legacy, the Hernández Award will be given to the exceptional student or alum who prioritizes the needs of others as they pursue an education beyond SPS in social justice or service.** This includes any field of study, as long as the study enables the student to "bear the burdens of others." International relations, medicine, psychology, law, even engineering are possible fields of study.

**This scholarship is also open to those nominated by SPS alums and students and exceptional activists outside of the SPS community.** **The $10,000 award from this scholarship may be used to fund undergraduate or graduate education or as a stipend for internships in a social justice field.**

**Application Deadline: April 15, 2021, at 5:00 pm EST**

**Information and Guidelines:**

**Eligibility:**

Any member of the SPS community (student, alum, faculty member, or staff member) or person that any member of the SPS community nominates may apply for the Hernández Award. This is a need *and* merit based award, so applicants should already be receiving some level of financial aid.

The Hernández Award is need and merit-based and does not discriminate against its applicants on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, age, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

**Application Process Timeline:**

* **Friday, March 5, 2021:** Application opens
* **April 15, 2021: Deadline:** Application and all supporting materials must be submitted via email to [sps2020society@gmail.com](mailto:sps2020society@gmail.com) by 5:00 pm EST.
* **By May 15, 2021:** Winners announced. All applicants will be notified via email of their application status.

**Summary of Selection Criteria and Materials Required for Submission:**

* **Deadline:** Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by 5:00 pm EST on April 15, 2021.
* **Contact Information:** see the section titled “Applicant Contact Information” for more information.
* **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation, each sent separately, to [sps2020society@gmail.com](mailto:sps2020society@gmail.com). The letters do not have to be from SPS teachers or administration; please refer to the section titled “Letters of Recommendation” for more information.
* **Essays:** see the section titled “Essay Questions” for more information.
* **Copy of Financial Aid Award letter or student loan awards**
* **Acknowledgment of selection criteria and application requirements:** By submitting an application for the Hernández Award, applicants acknowledge, understand, and agree to the selection criteria and application requirements published on the award’s website. Furthermore, the selected individual or group agrees to cooperate with publicizing the Hernández Award Award and the 2020 Society of SPS on social media and other PR initiatives.

**Supplementary Materials/Additional Information (OPTIONAL)**

If you wish to share any additional information not included in the application, please use the space below. Additionally, please provide any links or documents for up to **three** supplemental materials (i.e., newspaper articles, past projects) that you believe would help the selection committee better understand your application. For videos, please provide links (Youtube, Vimeo, etc) rather than files.

**Applicant Contact Information (for groups, fill out contact information for each group member)**

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Date of Birth:
* Hometown/place of permanent residence:
* Email:
* Phone number:
* Relationship to St. Paul’s School:

**Letters of Recommendation:**

**Guidelines:**

Applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation that abide by the following guidelines. Members of the applicant’s family may not write letters of recommendation. If you are nominating someone, you will write one of the letters of recommendation and the nominee will be required to attain the second.

* Applicants must provide contact information of reference: see the section titled “Reference Contact Information” for the form.
* One of the letters should be from the person who nominated you if you are not a “member” of the SPS community
* Letters must speak to the applicant’s character and commitment to social good.

**Additionally, it is the applicant’s responsibility to:**

* Share the letter-writing guidelines above with references
* Obtain a copy of the reference letter and send it to [sps2020society@gmail.com](mailto:sps2020society@gmail.com) or ensure the letter-writer sends it themselves by the application deadline.

**Reference Contact Information:**

Reference 1:

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Organization/School:
* Title/Position:
* Relationship to applicant:
* Email Address:
* Preferred phone number:

Reference 2:

* Name:
* Pronouns:
* Organization/School:
* Title/Position:
* Relationship to applicant:
* Email Address:
* Preferred phone number:

**Essay Questions:**

1. Below is the current St. Paul’s School Prayer:

"Grant, O Lord, that in all the joys of life we may never forget to be kind. Help us to be unselfish in friendship, thoughtful of those less happy than ourselves, and eager to bear the burdens of others; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen."

In no more than 600 words, please reflect on the school prayer and how you have upheld its message in your past service and ideals. Please also speak to how you plan to uphold it in the future and how your choice of studies will help you do so.

**We are incredibly excited to read your application and commend your commitment to making positive, meaningful change. If you have any questions or need help, please reach out to** [**sps2020society@gmail.com**](mailto:sps2020society@gmail.com)**.**