

Jonathan Edward Aukstikalnis Character Recognition Fund, Inc.

Tax ID 83-3605374

65 Burnshirt Road, Phillipston, MA 01331

Phone (978) 895-5762

heidi@jonathanscharacterfund.org

www.jonathanscharacterfund.org



Introduction

Jonathan's home was in Phillipston, Massachusetts. As a young boy, he would play for hours making new things and seeing new ways to use old things around the house as creative inventions. Jonathan also enjoyed being outside, playing with his brother, riding bikes, hiking, sledding, going on adventures, playing soccer, skiing, and hunting. Jonathan also liked going to story hour, karate, church, Sunday school, Boy Scouts, camping, and traveling to Canada. Jonathan attended Phillipston Memorial School, Narragansett Middle School and was accepted at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, where he planned to study plumbing. Jonathan provided countless community service hours at the first annual Easter's Great Gathering, the church bazaar, the fall fair, Earth Day clean-up and more. He participated in Narragansett area youth sports, such as t-ball, baseball, basketball and soccer (his favorite!) Jonathan also played on the middle school soccer team, serving as one of the captains in the eighth grade, and playing for Westminster's travel team, the Outlaws.

As a first grader, Jonathan joined scouting as a Tiger Cub, and he moved up the ranks through Boy Scouts, having earned all the required merit badges for the rank of Eagle. Before he could complete his Eagle project, however, Jonathan passed from injuries sustained in an accident at home in 2012. Jonathan's scouting achievements were recognized at the local, state and national levels, when he was awarded the Spirit of the Eagle Award. This award recognizes Jonathan's many years of commitment and dedication to scouting, where he was unable to obtain the rank of Eagle due to his untimely passing.

Throughout his 14 years, Jonathan did many things, met people of all ages, and had a ready smile for everyone. Jonathan would often sit and spend time with others that may have been sitting alone, or stay inside with younger children who wanted to go out with the big kids, and he would hold the door for someone and offer a smile, whether he knew them or not. When asked about why he was coloring with smaller children one day instead of out playing with his friends, he said, "...just because."

Whenever people speak of Jonathan, they speak of his smile and wonderful sense of humor. They also talk about how he quietly achieved, doing what needed to be done. People mostly talk about Jonathan's kindness.

Losing Jonathan was unbelievably overwhelming, and it brought a tremendous sadness to his family and all who knew him, but we wanted to do something positive in memory of a young man who exemplified outstanding character. Initially, family and friends pitched in to award a scholarship to a graduating senior in Jonathan's class; however, we wanted to be able to do more. We decided it would be very fitting to create an organization that would enable us to recognize and support, through scholarship, the academic and social growth of students who give of their time, energy or skill set through service within their school and community. Through much hard work and determination the organization became incorporated, February 2, 2019, and subsequently obtained 501c3 status.

The Jonathan Edward Aukstikalnis Character Recognition Fund, Inc. is a 501c3 public charity created in Jonathan's name to honor the memory of a young man who was known for doing something kind... just because. When completing this application, either for yourself or for someone else, please keep in mind what good character is and what it is about your character that makes you a good candidate for this scholarship.

Character Matters

"... JUST BECAUSE"

When you do something kind,

- You make someone's day a little bit easier
- You make the world a better place
- You set an example for others
- You don't do these things for personal gain or public accolades, do them because it is the right thing to do.

"... JUST BECAUSE"

10. List volunteer/unpaid community services performed. (For more space, please attach an additional sheet to this application.)

Continuing Education:

11. What is your planned continuing education program or field of study?

12. What college/trade school will you attend? (If undecided at present, send the school's name, city, and state to us once enrolled.)

a. Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____, or,

b. Undecided. Colleges/Schools under consideration are:

13. What degree(s) are you pursuing?: _____

14. Anticipated year of college graduation: _____

Personal Essay:

15. Given the definition of what having good character means, and considering the description of Jonathan's character (see "Introduction"), in an essay of 1,000 words or less, tell the scholarship committee about a community service you performed that was most meaningful for you and why.

Attach your essay to this form. The essay is limited to no more than 1,000 words, two print pages (approximately 6,000 characters). Recommendation: Carefully proofread your essay and know that well-done short essays are admired.

16. On an attached document, write a statement describing you as a person. Be sure to include descriptions of experiences and interests relevant to the type of character described in the introduction of this application.

17. Please provide a letter of reference from someone you completed community service for who can attest to your character and how it supports your qualification for a scholarship from Jonathan Edward Aukstikalnis Character Recognition Fund, Inc.

18. Certification Statement:

By signing my name below, I confirm that all of the information provided above and in the accompanying documents is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____