

Will Nutter Memorial Scholarship Program

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Supports the utility forestry and arboriculture industry by helping college students interested in those fields achieve high academic goals without accumulating burdensome debt.



TOTAL DONATIONS

January 1 – December 31, 2024: **\$1,000**

Gifts over \$500

- Barbara Lipfer



AWARDED IN 2024

2024 Will Nutter Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Gabriel Koelzer of West Virginia University for **\$5,000**.



AWARDEE DETAILS

"Hello, my name is Gabe Koelzer, and I am a freshman at West Virginia University. I am enrolled as a Forest Resource Management major, and I have chosen urban forestry/arboriculture as my area of emphasis. I have always been one to love the outdoors. Whether that's hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, or even removing a rotting willow oak on a hot summer day.

Forestry wasn't always my post-high school plan by any means. I fumbled around with many ideas, ranging from an electrician to construction management and even a diesel mechanic. Nothing ever seemed to stick with me, and I just wasn't satisfied with what I could come up with. This all changed the summer before my senior year of high school. An uncle of one of my close friends reached out to me and offered me a position at the tree service that he founded and owns. He brought me on as a mechanic, which is what I thought I wanted to do at the time. I quickly learned that I didn't love the mechanics, but I was extremely intrigued by the arborists and climbers. I stopped working on trucks shortly after I arrived at the company. My boss decided to let me ride along with a crew to see how I did. After the first few days of doing tree work, I was absolutely in love. I knew from this point on that I wanted to pursue some sort of career in the forestry field."- Gabriel Koelzer