

# The Don Reeser, Mary Evanson and Dr. Fern Duvall Memorial Scholarship

Application Form, 2026-2027 Academic Year

Sponsored by

The Friends of Haleakalā National Park

A 501(c) (3) non-profit, Fed EIN 99-0330457

P. O. Box 322, Makawao, HI 96768

[www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org)

A scholarship grant of \$2,000 USD will be awarded by the Friends of Haleakalā National Park to each of up to three Hawai'i students who will be attending an accredited college or university in 2026-2027 and who are, or will be, pursuing degrees in fields related to conservation, biology or ecology of ecosystems such as that of Haleakalā.

The scholarship honors the life work of three heroes of the mountain: Don Reeser, Superintendent of Haleakalā National Park from 1988 to 2005, Mary Evanson, co-founder of the non-profit Friends of Haleakalā National Park (FHNP), and Dr. Fern Duvall, ornithologist, conservationist, and FHNP board member for over 20 years. FHNP supports the Park's mission to preserve and protect Haleakalā's unique ecosystems, scenic character, and associated Native Hawaiian culture. Please read more about these environmental heroes on page 3.

## Requirements:

Each scholarship recipient will be:

- a Hawai'i resident,
- either a graduating high school student admitted into an accredited college or university or a continuing college student within the United States,
- and planning to enter or already working toward a degree in a field related to conservation, ecology or biology - fields which could be related to the preservation of an ecosystem such as that of Haleakalā.

## Each applicant will provide:

- transcripts showing a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, (may be unofficial transcript)
- 2 letters of recommendation addressed to the Friends of Haleakalā National Park and referencing the Friends of Haleakalā National Park Memorial Scholarship
- a 1000- to 1300-word essay. Please address the essay guidelines below.
- If in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, confirmation that you are accepted into a college or university for Fall 2026.
- For all notified finalists, confirmation of matriculation in your college or university for Fall 2026.

## Essay guidelines:

To help us know you better, please write an essay of 1000 to 1300 words about your career goals for a future in a scientific field such as biology, environmental conservation/preservation, or other discipline that could be related to an ecosystem such as that of Haleakalā National Park, or other Hawai'i ecosystem. We are especially interested in what your strong interests are with regard to your chosen field of environmental study, as well as any experience you may already have had learning and/or working in this field, whether paid or volunteer. Your essay must be original, previously unpublished and personally written. **(NO AI-generated content.)**

**Date due:** The completed application must be submitted to The Friends of Haleakalā National Park by May 15, 2026.

**Submittal method:** Either by email to BOTH [andy@fhnp.org](mailto:andy@fhnp.org) AND [mary@fhnp.org](mailto:mary@fhnp.org) by May 15, 2026, or by postal mail to: FHNP, P. O. Box 322, Makawao, HI 96768 and post-marked by the due date of May 15, 2026.

Winners will be notified by June 15, 2026. We request that, upon notice of winning, awardees provide FHNP with a photo, and that they permit excerpts from their essays, along with a possible interview and their photo to be used in the publications of FHNP and for possible articles in the Maui News and FHNP social media for the purpose of announcing the year's scholarship award.

Please find the application form on the following page.

Applicant's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age in May of this year: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address, if different from street address

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

College or university you will be attending in Fall, 2026: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/major: \_\_\_\_\_

If currently in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, school and date of expected high school graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

and expected date of acceptance into your college/university: \_\_\_\_\_

If currently enrolled in a college/university , name of institution and year in program: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print full name

If applicant is under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian printed name

## THE THREE HEROES OF THE MOUNTAIN WHOSE LEGACIES WE HONOR

**Don Reeser, Mary Evanson and Dr. Fern Duvall** were Haleakalā mountain heroes, having given selflessly to the mountain, to the Friends of Haleakalā National Park and to Maui and all of Hawai'i. We hope to encourage future generations in Hawai'i nei to be as dedicated to preserving and valuing our natural resources as were Don Reeser, Mary Evanson and Dr. Fern Duvall.

**Mary Evanson** spent countless hours in the Park as a dedicated volunteer. She knew the resources in the Park as well as any professional staff. Her love for Haleakalā began in the 1930's when her family visited the mountain. She moved from Oahu to Maui in the 1970's, and she began volunteering in the Park and helped with everything from fencing to monitoring the endangered silverswords. She was a founder 1996 of the Friends of Haleakalā and served as board president for many years. She launched regular overnight service trips into the Park, founded the Adopt-a-Nene program, which helps support native species in the Park, and started the FHNP Newsletter. Mary's influence on the preservation of Maui's natural resources extends mauka to makai, across Maui County beyond the borders of the national park. She fought to preserve native species and prevent invasive species from changing Maui's landscape. In 1996 Mary Evanson was honored by the Park Service for her tireless work by being designated Honorary Superintendent of Haleakalā National Park, the only person ever to receive that honor. She received many other awards and recognitions for her contributions to Maui's ecosystems and culture. Mary Evanson passed away on May 9, 2019, at the age of 97. The Friends of Haleakalā National Park are humbled by her dedication, and we hope to honor her by naming this scholarship after her.

*Don designating Mary Honorary Superintendent*

**Don Reeser** began his National Park Service career in Glacier National Park as a seasonal ranger and retired after serving as Superintendent of Haleakalā National Park from 1988 to 2005. He was known as a conservationist dedicated to preserving native habitats and their ecosystems. As Wildlife Ranger at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, he initiated a fencing program to restore Park ecosystems by keeping ungulates out of the Park. This method was so successful that it was adopted in many other national parks, including Haleakalā. Treasured species in the Park such as nene and silverswords were saved because of the fencing. Haleakalā NP acreage was enlarged during Don's tenure. His personal connection with the communities surrounding the Park encouraged involvement in the Park as well as ownership. These two things increased local participation and caring for the Park and surrounding areas. He was a deeply involved member of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa and as such was a defender of the peninsula and its history. Don joined the Board of Directors of Friends of Haleakalā upon his retirement from the Park Service in 2005. He provided guidance, leadership and wisdom until his death in March of 2019. He was an invaluable resource for the Board, and his legacy will influence us far into the future. We hope to return a small portion of the Aloha 'āina that Don shared by honoring a student conservationist with this scholarship in his name.



**Dr. Fern Duvall** was a life-long scientist and dedicated advocate for every aspect of the natural environment of Maui. He loved and protected Haleakalā Mountain's ecosystem from the summit to the sea with a passion that led him to take an important role in many environmental organizations whose varied purposes were to help the whole ecosystem to thrive. In addition to his roles as State Aviculturist from 1988, as a wildlife biologist from 1996 with the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife until his retirement in 2021, and, from 2015, as Maui Program Manager for the Native Ecosystems Protection and Management Program, he worked in association with many other projects and non-profits serving the cause of environmental conservation in Maui County. He oversaw the Maui Nui Forest and Seabird Recovery Projects and served organizations and agencies such as the East Maui Watershed Partnership, Rapid Ohia Death Prevention and the Hawai'i Audubon Society, to name a few. Among his many accomplishments was the work that helped save the critically endangered Hawaiian native 'alalā, which was on the brink of extinction. Dr. Duvall was an active and invaluable member of the board of the Friends of Haleakalā

National Park from 2000 through 2012 and served the organization as an advisor from 2013 until his death in February, 2022. His life's work has left a lasting positive impact on the environment of Haleakalā and all of Hawai'i.