

Colorado Native Plant Society

Alice Eastwood Scholarship

"My desire is to help, not to shine."



PURPOSE. The Alice Eastwood Scholarship is administered by the Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) with funds contributed by members and non-members to the Alice Eastwood Scholarship Fund. The Fund is earmarked to help support undergraduates pursuing bachelor's degrees that ultimately advance the Mission of the Society:

"To promote the knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of native plants and their natural habitats in Colorado through science, education, stewardship, and advocacy."

AWARDS. One or two awards will be administered to meritorious applicants each year through 2029. Successful applicants will receive awards of \$950 or \$475 — Eastwood's annual salary earned while teaching at Denver East High School in the late 1800s. Scholarships will be disbursed by CoNPS to the office overseeing student accounts at the recipient's undergraduate institution and may be applied to the costs of instruction (e.g., tuition, fees, books). Qualified applicants, whether or not they are selected as recipients, will receive a one-year student membership in the Society.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be undergraduates pursuing bachelor's degrees that ultimately advance the Mission of the Society, including botany, ecology, conservation, landscape architecture, horticulture, or environmental science emphasizing native plants.
2. At the time a scholarship application is submitted, applicants must be registered full-time, that is, 12+ credits/semester).

APPLICATION DEADLINE. Applications will be reviewed as received beginning 1 October. The deadline will roll, that is, applications will continue to be reviewed until meritorious applicants are identified. Once awards are administered, the deadline will close until 1 October of the following academic year.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (see conps.org/alice-eastwood-grant/). Applicants must submit an online application form providing biographical information along with a single pdf document comprising the following:

1. cover letter;
2. unofficial transcripts (downloaded from college or university is acceptable);
3. resume (1 page in length);
4. essay (1 page in length with 1" margins, 12pt font, and single line-spacing) addressing the following:
 - What is your field of study and how did you select it?
 - What are your short-term and long-term career goals.
 - Describe any co- or extra-curricular activities pertinent to your career goals?
 - Describe any work experience pertinent to your career goals. This experience could be science-related or more generally applicable to professional development.
 - Describe any area(s) of specialization within your field of study.

As a condition of the award, each recipient is required to:

- provide a photograph and brief biography for promotion;
- document how the scholarship was used (e.g., tuition, books);
- attend the annual conference or a chapter meeting of the Colorado Native Plant Society;
- acknowledge the Society and Scholarship in presentations and publications benefitting from this funding.

SELECTION PROCESS. The CoNPS Board of Directors, or its designees, are solely responsible for reviewing and evaluating scholarship applications and selecting recipients (see rubric).

Reviewers will include faculty and other professionals with academic preparation (e.g., BS, MS) in those disciplines supported by this scholarship program. Recipients will be selected based on how well the applicant addresses the mission of the Society and goals of the Alice Eastwood Scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded once every academic year, assuming receipt of complete applications from highly qualified undergraduates.

To be considered, complete applications must be submitted to <https://conps.org/alice-eastwood-grant/>. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. Applicants will be notified by mail of the Society's decision within four weeks of receipt of a complete application.

The following criteria will be considered when evaluating and ranking applications:

- quality of the proposal — competitive applications will be well written, thorough, and detailed, addressing each of the application requirements;
- applicant's education, activities, work experience, and career goals as they advance the Society's mission;
- applicant's interest in pursuing a graduate degree or career in botany, ecology, conservation, landscape architecture, horticulture, or environmental science emphasizing native plants;
- faculty support.

Note: A strong nomination clearly specifies why the applicant should be considered; this may include a variety of indicators, such as commitment; motivation and enthusiasm; depth and breadth of interest in native plants; academic performance; outreach, research, and work experience; and extenuating circumstances and perseverance.

Who was Alice Eastwood?

Canadian by birth, Alice Eastwood moved to Denver in 1873 at the age of 14 to join her father and two siblings after the death of their young mother eight years earlier resulted in personal and financial hardship that disrupted family life. Alice attended East Denver High School, where she excelled as a student, despite having to work several jobs to help support her family. Upon graduating as valedictorian of her class, she was invited to teach at the high school. From 1879-1890, Alice Eastwood traveled extensively and fearlessly in Colorado, teaching herself botany using Asa Gray's (1878) *Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States* and *Synopsis of the Flora of Colorado* by Thomas C. Porter and John M. Coulter (1874). She explored the Southern Rocky Mountains on foot and on horseback, collecting well over 1200 plants, which later formed the basis for the herbarium at the University of Colorado Museum. In 1893, she published *A Popular Flora of Denver, Colorado*, one of three books and over 300 publications that she would author over the course of her life. Today, Alice Eastwood is remembered as an outstanding field botanist and horticulturalist, and beloved member of the various communities, scientific and otherwise, that she influenced. The Alice Eastwood Scholarship commemorates her contributions to a better understanding of the flora of Colorado.