



McCrary Family Scholarship Application 2026

Purpose: To provide graduating high school seniors the opportunity to further their education by providing financial support to offset the expense of attending a school studying skilled trades in the manufacturing, construction, maintenance fields or forestry.

Background: Bud and Lud McCrary co-founded Big Creek Lumber at the same age that most students graduate high school. Times were different in 1946 and they gained valuable training in skilled trades while serving during World War II and continued learning on the job after founding Big Creek Lumber. Although their education was non-traditional, the skills that they picked up serving their country set them up for success. After founding Big Creek they learned mechanical, business, forestry skills and became life long learners. Since its inception, Big Creek Lumber has been fortunate to have the support of employees and customers who have made their careers in the skilled trades and forestry. In honor of this support, Big Creek Lumber would like to help today's youth gain valuable skills that will help them be self-sufficient and provide the opportunity to build sustainable, enjoyable careers.

One-Time Award Amount: \$2,000
With the option to re-apply for a one-time renewal.

ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - A. High school senior who plans to attend a university or college majoring in forestry or attend a trade, vocational or truck driving school beginning in Fall of 2026.
 - B. Attend a High School within 25 miles of a Big Creek Lumber Location in California (Atwater, Davenport, Half Moon Bay, Paso Robles, Santa Cruz, Vallejo or Watsonville).
2. Scholarship application and accompanying documents must be submitted to Big Creek Lumber no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday 4/24/2026**. Late applications will not be accepted. Submissions may be made through one of the two following methods:
 - A. Via email to scholarships@big-creek.com
or
 - B. Via mail to Big Creek Lumber:
Big Creek Lumber
Attn: McCrary Family Scholarship
3564 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017

3. We will be hosting scholarship recipients for a celebration lunch and tour of our sawmill on dates in June that are TBD. Attendance at this special event is highly recommended but not required.

CRITERIA TO RECEIVE THIS SCHOLARSHIP

1. Plan to attend a university, college or trade school in the Fall of 2026 and meet the eligibility considerations (listed above).
2. Exhibit a desire to learn and have goals for one's future.
Must be available to participate in a Zoom or in-person interview with the McCrary Family Scholarship selection committee.
3. Applicants must submit all of the following documents to be considered:
 - A. A completed scholarship application. See attached.
 - B. Answer to the supplemental questions in writing.
 - C. A written letter of recommendation from a teacher, school counselor, or school administrator (cannot be a family member).
 - D. A current school transcript, that shows that they are in good standing with attendance.

Important Note: You must have all the required documents listed above to be considered for the McCrary Family Scholarship. If any item is missing, you will be automatically disqualified.

Judging Criteria (listed in order of importance)

1. Desire to learn.
2. Answers to Written Questions.
3. Recommendation from a Teacher, School Counselor or School Administrator.
4. Performance in interview.

Scholarship winners will...

1. Be announced on the Big Creek Lumber Website and Facebook Page.
2. Have a group photo taken with the McCrary family to be submitted for publication in local media outlets and trade publications.
3. Submit proof of Fall 2026 enrollment in a trade or forestry school to Big Creek Lumber (scholarships@big-creek.com) no later than Wednesday, 8/26/2026.
4. Contact Big Creek Lumber (scholarships@big-creek.com) by Labor Day 2026 to designate how you would like to receive your \$2,000 check (by mail or in person).
5. Receive their scholarship check by 9/30/26.



McCrary Family Scholarship for Forestry and the Trades *Application*

Applicant Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

High School: _____

List intended school (College/University/Trade School) and Major.

School Reference:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Position at School: _____

Supplemental Questions:

Please answer the following questions in a separate attached document (1,000 word max), typed in at least 12pt font with your name at the top of the document.

Questions:

1. What motivated you to choose this course of study and school?
2. Why does this course of study interest you?
4. How will you balance work and school over the next few years?
5. What are your career goals?
6. Why should you be selected for the McCrary Family Scholarship?

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____