



Erin Dodson Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by the Brian Morden Foundation

Background Information

Erin Dodson graduated in 2004 from Altoona Area High School. She was a 3-sport student athlete. She played volleyball, basketball, and softball. Although she loved all sports, her true passion was volleyball. She was a 2-time Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association (PVCA) First Team All-State player. In the Fall of 2004, she attended Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. Just two weeks into her freshman year, she was diagnosed with brain cancer.

For the next 7 ½ years, Erin battled the disease. She took on cancer every day. The cancer and the side effects from treatments played havoc on her body. She lost her hair to radiation treatments – it never grew back. She could no longer drive a car because she had problems with vision and depth perception. She struggled with short-term memory loss and she had a jerk in her left leg when she walked but she absolutely refused to use a walking cane. With all that the cancer took from her, this tall, bald, and beautiful young woman continued to live her life as fully as possible with grace, a sense of humor, and a positive attitude.

She tried to return to her academic studies at Juniata College twice. The first time was just one year after her initial diagnosis. She couldn't walk and used a motorized scooter to get around the college campus, but the cancer came back and she had to leave her studies again for more treatments.

Recurrences of the cancer were the most difficult times for Erin, but she always projected a positive attitude and a true concern for others. When talking to people about her cancer, she would say, "Don't worry. I'll be okay. Are you okay?" When Erin couldn't play sports anymore, she became the ultimate team player by cheering in the stands for others, or giving them a high-five for their accomplishments. When she would be out in public and she would notice a small child staring at her, she would immediately kneel down and say "I was sick and I lost my hair. It's okay." She loved children and wanted them to be comfortable with people who looked different.

Erin did volunteer work at a local hospital and participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She was a Buddy for the Blair County Miracle League and she was an active ambassador for childhood cancer awareness through the Brian Morden Foundation. She loved listening to music on the radio and her favorite movies were "Forrest Gump" and "The Sandlot."

The Erin Dodson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to young men and women who participate in any high school athletics, who appreciate doing volunteer work, and have completed all parts of this application. Their higher education course of study should include one of the following: education, communications or medicine. The maximum award for an individual scholarship is \$1000. Applicants should be US citizens and a high school graduate of AAHS, HAHS, or Bishop Guilfoye High School as of the summer of 2022.



Applications should be postmarked by March 7, 2022
Questions? Contact brianmordenfoundation@gmail.com



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2022 Application – Page 1

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Permanent Address _____

Permanent Phone # _____ Email address _____

Current School _____

Current GPA _____ Graduation Date _____

School attending in 2022-2023 _____

Intended Major field of study _____

Intended Minor field of study _____

Extracurricular Activities (teams, clubs, school, church or community volunteer efforts, work experience):

Awards or Honors (received during high school): _____

Additional information you'd like to have the selection committee consider:

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Please answer the following questions **on other paper** (typed or handwritten). Please do not type/write on both sides of the paper.

1. Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?

2. How would you describe to someone the experience of playing any kind of sport – what kind of life lessons have you learned from your teammates or your coach or even from an opponent?

3. What course of study do you plan to pursue in college? Why did you choose it?

4. Please conclude your application with a brief statement explaining why you chose to apply for this scholarship.

Please attach 1 letter of recommendation/support (excluding family members) with this application that would attest to your character.

Please send the completed application to:
(single-sided, no staples, 2 copies please)

Brian Morden Foundation
2809 Columbia Dr.
Altoona, PA 16602

Application should be postmarked by:
March 7, 2022

Applicant signature

Date