



# **Brian Morden Memorial Scholarship**

## **Background Information**

Brian Andrew Morden was an amazing young man. He was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a bone cancer, at the age of 16, and began his first of more than 100 chemotherapy treatments on his seventeenth birthday, January 10, 2001. He fought this horrendous disease for more than 2 years, and what his friends remember most about him was that he rarely, if ever, complained about his misfortune and that he shared his love, gentleness, and kindness with those he met.

Brian loved computers, particularly playing Bungie games such as Myth and then Halo on the Xbox, chatting with friends, and experimenting with applications like Photoshop. Brian was fortunate to take a Make-A-Wish trip to Microsoft in Redmond, Washington, where he not only met the creators of the Bungie games, but also had a chance to play Halo with them even before it was released to the public. During this trip Brian was asked to add his voice to the Halo game, so Brian's voice is now immortalized on Halo.

Brian was also a very talented musician who often let others take the solos. He delighted in hitting the very high notes on his trumpet and loved playing in the stands at football games and in the jazz band. John Coltrane and Miles Davis were two of his favorite composers and performers.

Brian loved to read, especially fantasy, especially Tolkien, whom he started reading in elementary school long before the Peter Jackson movies revived an interest in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Brian believed there was no better writer than Tolkien. Brian also loved movies – many of the great classics such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *The Godfather*. He was thrilled when Peter Jackson made *The Lord of the Rings*. Luckily, he was able to see the first two movies from the trilogy. Brian was accepted at Penn State University Park to study video and filmmaking. He was unable to attend due to his cancer.

The Brian Morden Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to young men and women who have a fascination with technology and a love of music, and have completed all parts of this application. The maximum award for an individual scholarship is \$1000. Applicants should be US citizens and an Altoona Area High School (Altoona, PA) graduate as of the summer of 2020 OR a cancer survivor and a high school graduate as of the summer of 2020. Applicants' higher education course of study should include either music, some aspect of technology, or medicine. They should possess qualities of what was best about Brian – a gentle person who shared his love and kindness with those he met.

**Applications should be postmarked by March 16, 2020**  
**Questions? Contact [dbjmorden@brianmordenfoundation.org](mailto:dbjmorden@brianmordenfoundation.org)**



# Brian Morden Memorial Scholarship

## 2020 Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

School attending in 2020-2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major field of study \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Minor field of study \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Awards or Honors** (received during high school): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Brian Morden Memorial Scholarship Application Pg. 2**

Please answer the following questions **on another sheet of paper** (type or handwrite; be concise). Please do not type/write on both sides of the paper.

1. Brian was blessed to have come in contact with many wonderful people, including some who had a great impact on his life. Has anyone significantly impacted your life up to this point or do you have any role models you emulate? If so, who? Explain.
2. As happened with Brian, circumstances may change in the blink of an eye causing a change in your aspirations. However, assuming you finish your education what do you hope to accomplish in your professional and personal life?
3. Name and explain a single event in your life that was a moment of enlightenment or self-discovery.
4. Name one person or organization that is better off because of your involvement with them or it. Please explain.
5. What encourages you about the direction of our society? Discourages you?

\* If you are a cancer survivor (not required to be eligible for the AAHS scholarship) would you be willing to share the following information? Diagnosis, diagnosis date, period of time of treatment. How has your cancer experience affected your life?

With this application, please submit 1 letter of recommendation/support (excluding family members) that would attest to your character.

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

**Application should be postmarked by:**  
March 16, 2020

Brian Morden Foundation  
c/o Attorney Maryann Joyce Bistline  
1105 Logan Blvd  
Altoona, PA 16602

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Applicant signature

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Date

*The following criteria will be considered during the selection process (the more criteria the applicant meets, the more likely they will be awarded a scholarship):*

1. *Major – music, computer related fields, medicine*
2. *Answers to questions*
3. *Cancer survivor (not a requirement for the AAHS scholarship)*