



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Parks & Community Services**  
123 Fifth Ave, Kirkland, WA 98033 · 425.587.3300  
[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

---

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Lynn Zwaagstra, Director  
James Lopez, Deputy City Manager, External Affairs  
Leslie R. Miller, Human Services Supervisor  
Regi Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator  
Patrick Tefft, Volunteer Services Coordinator

**Date:** May 20, 2021

**Subject:** 2021 EILEEN TRENTMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council join staff in recognizing this year's two recipients of the Eileen Trentman Memorial Scholarship.

## **BACKGROUND DISCUSSION**

In 2005 City of Kirkland employees established a scholarship program for City youth volunteers. The scholarship is named in honor of the City's former Volunteer Coordinator, Eileen Trentman. Funding for the Scholarship Program is generated through voluntary employee contributions during the annual Employee Giving Campaign. The Kirkland Fire Fighters Benevolent Association (KFFBA) has been gracious enough to hold the funds through their status as a registered non-profit organization. This year KFFBA provided additional funding for the scholarship.

The following eligibility guidelines have been established for the program:

- Candidates must have served the City of Kirkland in a volunteer capacity. This would include, but is not limited to, Kirkland Youth Council, Boards and Commissions, and Police Explorers.
- Candidates must have graduated high school or be on track to graduate from high school the following June.
- Candidates must be attending or have plans to attend college, university, or technical school after graduating from high school.
- Candidates are eligible through age 21.

Every year, City staff are asked to nominate eligible and deserving youth volunteers for the scholarship through the annual Volunteer Appreciation Program. All nominations are then reviewed by five City staff members which includes a representative from KFFBA. For 2021, two students were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship; Nelly Mex Canul (Kirkland Youth Council) and Asher Devine (Kirkland Green Partnership).

Nelly joined the Kirkland Youth Council in the fall of 2019 as a junior at Lake Washington High School. She jumped right in with both feet and has never looked back. Nelly is always willing to help, is dependable, and truly cares about her peers and community. She has served as judge for the Teen Traffic Court program, played a starring role in Kirkland's mask wearing PSA, and always is the first Leadership member to offer to facilitate discussions at meetings. These leadership skills led her peers to elect her to the 2020-21 KYC Leadership team after just eight months being on the council.

Nelly has never shied away from advocating for the Latinx youth and families in our community, particularly during COVID. She asks questions and raises up struggles both her peers and her and her family have had to deal with (even directly to the LWSD Superintendent!). She tactfully and elegantly speaks her truth. Not only does Nelly excel at everything she does, but she also puts so much of herself into her work. She is a quiet but powerful leader and has earned the respect of both her peers and adults in our community. Nelly will be attending the University of Washington this fall.

Asher, a volunteer Green Kirkland Steward since 2015, has contributed a tremendous 160 hours in the five years since, engaging the community to build healthier habitat while teaching others the value of the City's urban forests at Crestwoods Park. His dedication to hands-on learning and growth as a leader has made him a peer among adults. Asher began as a young Scout and has remained passionate and committed to the environment ever since. His service has given him hands-on experience dealing with the challenges of stewardship, both in managing people and the landscape. He has grown into a leader who is not afraid to try new ideas to solve problems while collaborating with a team of experienced adults.

Asher contributes significantly to the Green Kirkland Partnership's annual goal planning at his site by bringing new ideas and novel approaches. In 2020, Asher took the initiative to develop a test of browse protection devices for new tree plantings in his area. He saw a problem and proposed three low-cost ways to address the issue. He developed and researched this project and is now following through with installation and ongoing monitoring of his experiment. He possesses the self-awareness and confidence to manage his time and energy to get things accomplished as a team player. The City of Kirkland is lucky to have such a motivated and professional young adult addressing real challenges in the community!