

The Vanderburg & Gagnon Coaches Award

The Coaches Memorial Award

It is with great pride that we announce the Kyle Vanderburg and Don Gagnon Memorial Coaches Award in honour of Coach Kyle and Coach Don. This award is given to an individual on their journey to post-secondary education who has shared Kyle and Don's passion for hockey and who plays and attends school locally.

This award consists of **two (2) \$1000.00 awards that will be distributed annually to two (2) students from the Sault Ste. Marie area pursuing their first year of post-secondary studies.**

Don Gagnon's hockey resume is full. In 1969 Don joined the Soo Greyhounds hockey organization and would go on to win the NOJHA Jr. A championship during the 1971-1972 season. He would continue on to play at Lake State University on a hockey scholarship, earning top scoring honours as a freshman. After returning to OHA hockey with the Hounds, Don was invited to the Chicago Blackhawks training camp where an untimely injury on the first day of camp ended that dream for him. Don's involvement in the game as a coach began in 1986, where he would leave a lasting impact at all levels, from Tyke to Midget AAA to Junior A. Don's character and devotion to the game changed the lives of many players over the years. Nothing proves Don's impact more than the many phone calls and emails he would receive thanking him for making a difference. Coaching alongside his son Michael and having the opportunity to coach his grandson Christian was a cherished culmination of Don's involvement in the game. Don truly loved working with all the families he met and cherished all the memories made both on and off the ice with the hockey community.

Kyle Vanderburg was delighted to coach alongside Don Gagnon, learning from one of the best! Kyle became very close friends with Don's son Michael during this coaching experience. Kyle loved playing hockey, he was a gifted player; a solid defenseman who loved to rush the puck. But beyond being a reliable blueliner, Kyle was a natural leader and a tremendous role model to the young athletes that he coached and played alongside. Kyle graduated with his sports management degree from Humber College and quickly settled into a coaching role upon returning home. As a hockey coach, Kyle loved connecting with the players and always wanted every player to have fun and reach their full potential. During his short time, Kyle made a difference in so many lives and would be so pleased to have his memory honored by our hockey community.

This award will continue to honor Don and Kyle's legacies through the Coaches Memorial Award and support future leaders who share their hockey love.

Award terms and conditions

Award amount

The amount of \$1000.00 will be awarded to two students exclusively for their first year of post-secondary studies. This award will not be renewed the following year for those recipients. A new pair of students will receive the award each year.

Eligible uses

Eligible uses for the award funds include: tuition, books, technology, housing, transportation, and all other living expenses during the first year of post-secondary education.

Eligibility criteria

You are eligible for the award if you meet all the following criteria:

- You have participated in a hockey league in Sault Ste. Marie.
- You are enrolled in a program at a college, university, post-secondary institution, or private trade school recognized by the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities
- You have a full-time course load for the 2023-2024 school year
- Community involvement: Detail any volunteer work or unpaid community involvement

Application evaluation criteria

Your application will be reviewed by a committee that includes representatives from local hockey organizations and members of the Gagnon and Vanderburg families. When they review your application, they will be scoring you based on the below, however all decisions are left at the discretion of the committee:

- Effort put into answering the application essay
- Two letters of recommendation

Essay - Please answer the following question in less than 1000 words in essay format:

“This award is founded in the memory of two great hockey coaches, Don Gagnon and Kyle Vanderburg, who influenced many young people involved in hockey in our community. How has hockey influenced your development as a person, and how can your hockey experiences and learnings be used to support your future endeavors?”

When submitting online, the essay must be a **PDF document**.

Please submit a PDF file of the essay to vanderburggagnoncoachesaward@gmail.com.

Letter of Recommendation: In order for us to get to know you better, we want to know how others see you. Please provide two letters written and signed by the following individuals:

1. A teacher from your secondary school
2. Another member of the community you are close with (boss, Elder, family member, coach, etc.)

These letters should be no longer than a page and describe your character and why you should receive this award. Please submit a PDF file of the letter to vanderburggagnoncoachesaward@gmail.com.

Submitting your application

Eligible applicants can submit a completed application form and all supporting documents through this [submission form](#). All applications must be received by 4 p.m. on April 30, 2023.

You must submit the following supporting documents by the April 30 deadline:

1. Proof of education

Submit a copy of your letter of registration for the 2023-2024 (or equivalent) school year from your college, university, or private trade school. You must request this from your school's registrar's office.

You may also submit a copy of your letter of acceptance to your chosen post-secondary institution.

Please submit PDF files of this documentation to vanderburggagnoncoachesaward@gmail.com.

2. Signed release of information form

Please print and sign this form and submit it along with your supporting documents

Two letters of recommendation

Please submit PDF files of this documentation to
vanderburggagnoncoachesaward@gmail.com.

Notification to applicants

We will notify both successful and unsuccessful applicants in June 2023 by email or mail. Successful applicants will be contacted first.

Acknowledgments

We will acknowledge scholarship recipients on social media platforms. Please see attached release form to complete and sign.

Please submit your forms electronically.

1. Release of information

If you are granted this award your name and/or picture may be published to help raise awareness about the scholarship.

Please indicate if you consent to the above request.

Yes, I consent.

No, I do not consent.

Applicant Signature

The Coaches Memorial Award - Application form

Submit electronically along with your supporting documents to admin@saultmajorhockey.ca

1. Contact information

Name: _____

Address: _____

High School: _____

Birth date: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

2. Post-Secondary information

Post-Secondary Institution name: _____

*Please attach a digital copy of the acceptance letter from your post-secondary institution with your application

Department or Faculty Name: _____

Program Name: _____

Length of Program: _____

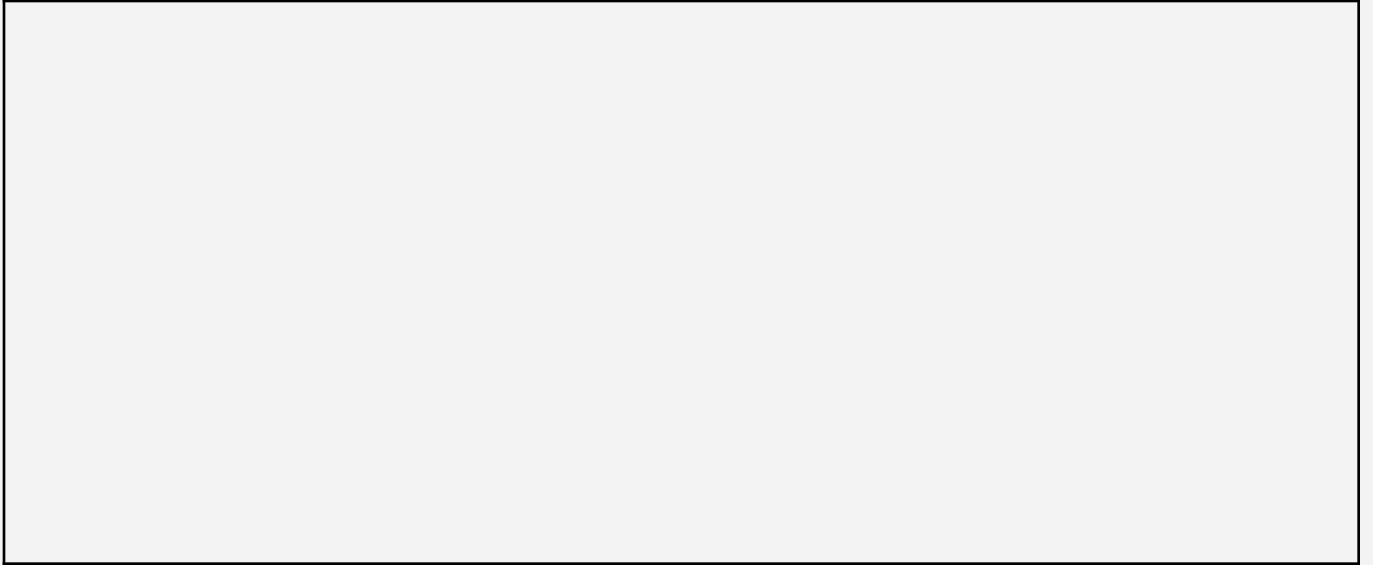
Type of Degree or Certificate to be earned upon completion: _____

Year(s) of Study: _____

3. Hockey Involvement

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4. Community Involvement

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