

Sig and Ruth Sporleder Memorial Scholarship



HUERFANO — A new scholarship opportunity is open for Huerfano County high school seniors. The Sig and Ruth Sporleder Memorial Scholarship has been established to honor the accomplishments and memories of these two longtime Huerfano citizens.

The Sporleder family has a long history in Huerfano County. Sig's grandfather Louis B. Sporleder Sr. arrived in Huerfano County in 1875 at the age of 17, and Sporleders have been here ever since.

Sig Sporleder was a Huerfano County rancher and businessman. Through Sporleder Feeds, the ranching supply business originally operated by his father Carl Sporleder, Sig helped countless youngsters get started in agriculture, providing special feeds for their 4-H projects and purchasing their animals at the county fair. He was also an outstanding steward of the land; he and his son Eric received the Outstanding Conservationist of the Year – Ranch Division Award from the Colorado Association of Soil Conservation Districts in 2000.

Ruth Kathleen Henry Sporleder was the love of his life. They married in 1953, and remained partners for life both before and after Ruth's death in 1988. The Henry family also has deep Huerfano roots. Ruth's parents, Elmer and Irene Henry, were among some of the first summer residents of Cuchara Camps. Ruth was an accomplished artist and studied under well-known Cuchara artist Clayton Staples. Ruth was also actively involved in the effort to require local schools to be handicapped accessible.

In recognition of Sig and Ruth's countywide background, the Sig and Ruth Sporleder Memorial Scholarship is open to high school seniors throughout Huerfano County, whether in public schools or home-schooled.

The ideal applicant will have an interest in one or more of the following areas: agriculture, rangeland/natural resource management and conservation, business, or art and be actively involved within the Huerfano County community. There is no minimum GPA requirement.

If you are a student wishing to be considered for the scholarship, please submit two letters of recommendation and a 400- to 500-word essay indicating your career plans, reasons for applying for the scholarship and why you should be chosen. Please include information on any community service you have been involved in.

The number of scholarships awarded and scholarship award amounts will vary from year to year. Please mail applications to: Sig and Ruth Memorial Scholarship Fund, PO Box 346, Walsenburg, CO 81089. The deadline to submit applications is **April 1, 2022, and the award will be made during the Scholarship Award Night Assembly.**