



SUPPORT BENZIE COUNTY STUDENTS!
BECOME "SPARTAN LOYAL"!

As you may already know, MSU is dramatically changing its Alumni Association membership system. Beginning July 1, 2016, the MSU Alumni Association (MSUAA) will eliminate its membership dues requirement, and will initiate a new program called "Spartan Loyal"

Under the Spartan Loyal program, individuals who contribute \$100+ per year to **any fund** at Michigan State University will be considered Spartan Loyal and thus eligible for enhanced alumni benefits*. This means that your contributions to our scholarship endowment fund will not only support Benzie County Spartans, but will also provide you with enhanced alumni status and benefits!

THE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

Description:

In 2012, the Club's Board of Directors (Board) decided that funding for scholarships required a strategy different from reliance on event fundraisers. The Club entered into a formal agreement with Michigan State University to establish a Scholarship Endowment Fund Account (**#AF010979**) that would be administered by Michigan State University's professional investment fund managers. Money in this account is combined and invested with the much larger pool of all Michigan State University endowment monies enabling it to earn a greater income return than the Club could achieve through self-management. **Your donations to this account are tax-deductible under IRS provision 501c(3).**

Here's how it works! On an annual basis, a portion of the interest earned on this account is made available to the Club for scholarships. The remaining amount remains as principal to help grow the fund. When the endowment level reaches our initial goal of \$90,000, scholarship money available from interest would amount to \$4,500, based upon a current payback rate of 5%. This yield is sufficient to sustain three \$1,500 scholarships. In only the first year of the program, cash and pledges received were already over **two thirds** of the initial goal of \$90,000, and the interest earned covered one of the \$1,500 scholarships awarded in 2013.

We thank all those generous benefactors who have already pledged and contributed. A growing endowment fund will enable more scholarships and/or higher scholarship amounts. The recipient students are most appreciative of the financial help you provided and the Board has received glowing reports about their academic achievements and the contributions they are making to the University. Please help our talented and deserving local high school students matriculate at Michigan State and donate to grow our Scholarship Endowment Fund.

To date, our Club has awarded almost \$50,000 in scholarships to graduates of Frankfort/Elberta and Benzie Central high schools. Therefore, by choosing to contribute to the Benzie Spartans Endowment to receive enhanced alumni benefits, you will also insure that Benzie County students will continue to receive much needed help to matriculate at MSU, and may make it possible to increase the amount or number of scholarships in future years.

You can make endowment contributions directly through the MSUAA web site, or by sending checks to our local post office box. Either way, we will make certain that your contributions are recognized by MSU.

To make an electronic contribution directly to MSU.

1. Log on to www.givingto.msu.edu/gift.
2. Once the site is open, type "Benzie County" in the box that says "Type here to search for Funds."
3. Go to the line that says "MSU Alumni Club of Benzie County Endowment" and click on "Add to Cart."
4. Enter the amount you wish to donate, and then click "Proceed to Checkout." Follow the instructions for payment from this point.
5. Send an email to Al Flory (arflory@yahoo.com) so your contribution can be acknowledged by the Club.

If you wish to mail in a contribution via check:

Please make your check payable to: **"Benzie Spartans Endowment."** **In the check's memo line, please record the fund ID number: AF010979.**

Mail checks to:
Benzie Spartans ATTN: Endowment Committee
P. O. Box 46
Frankfort, MI 49635

For more information on the Spartan Loyal program go to www.givingto.msu.edu/be-spartan-loyal.cfm

*Spartan Loyal alumni will receive printed copies of the magazine versus digital, advance notice to select MSU events and other "member benefits," such as discounted car rentals, bookstore discounts, etc.