

Friends of Letchworth State Park
\$2,000 Scholarship Award
February 23, 2026

Email entries to: mapesdavid39@gmail.com submission date April 17, 2026

To all contiguous Schools surrounding Letchworth State Park: Letchworth Central, Mt. Morris Central, Keshequa Central, York Central, Perry Central: The scholarship committee of the Friends of Letchworth State Park is announcing the competition for a \$2,000 Scholarship grant awarded to the Senior who shall demonstrate, successfully, through an essay which will describe: "HOW DID WILLIAM PRYOR LETCHWORTH'S GIFT FOREVER CHANGE THIS PART OF NEW YORK STATE"

Graduating Seniors are eligible for this scholarship by writing an essay of no less than 500 words about the above topic, to be submitted to the Friends of Letchworth Scholarship Committee no later than April 17, 2026. Email submissions of the entry will be accepted or hard copies (they must be received on or before April 17) but may be mailed to: David S. Mapes, 27 Groveland Rd. Geneseo, NY 14454, and to arrive, no later than the specified date.

The purpose of the essay would be to demonstrate, though personal knowledge of the Park and research into the impact of William Pryor Letchworth's gift of his land and property to New York State to be used as a public park. When researching the topic the writing must describe the Historical changes in our area, the Financial gains of western NY, the effects on our ecology and our opportunities for recreation because of this park.

Further and most importantly the writer must interview either a business person of this area or a park employee concerning the changes in our part of New York. The interview to be part of the essay with the persons name and relationship to our area must be in the text.

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Essays will be competitively judged by the Scholarship Committee based on accuracy of content, including spelling, grammar and syntax also to the degree with which the writer addresses the topic. All entrants will be notified concerning their entries by their guidance counselor or principal of their school. The successful entrant will be asked to attend a lunch on May 2th, 2026 in Letchworth State Park. May 2 "I Love MY Park Day", and this will be a proper occasion to award the Scholarship. The winner will be asked to read their essay to the assembled guests, that day.

The monies awarded from this scholarship are to be used to further the winner's education and the Friends of Letchworth would be very pleased to hear from them even after their award.

The Scholarship Committee:
The Friends of Letchworth State Park

Bibliographic and anecdotal sources for information on Letchworth Trails

People to contact

Doug Basset: trails coordinator at Letchworth State Park, Phone: 585 393 3600

Sources on the WWW/

Genesee Valley Greenway

Trail Map of Letchworth State Park

Friends of Letchworth State Park

Trail Otter, Hiking and camping Store Leichester, NY phone: 585 382 5055

Finger Lakes Trail

Historical Sources:

(You may find these books at your school or public library. If they don't have them, you may be able to get them on interlibrary loan. Also, a digital version may be available online for some of them.)

Anderson, Mildred Lee Hills. *Genesee Echoes*. Dansville NY: F A Owens Publishing Co, 1956.

Barnes, Katherine. *Rainbow's End, The Story of Letchworth Park*. Perry NY: Moxon Printing, 1967

Beale, Irene A. *William P. Letchworth: A Man for Others*. Geneseo NY: Chestnut Hill Press, 1982.

Breslin, Thomas A., Thomas S. Cook, Russell A. Judkins, and Thomas C. Ritchens. *Letchworth State Park*. Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008.

Larned, J.N. *The Life and Work of William Pryor Letchworth*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1912.

Peer, Sherman. *A Sketch of William Pryor Letchworth and Glen Iris*. Genesee State Park Commission, 1956.

Additionally, you will find information at www.leitchworthparkhistory.com along with other sites on the internet.