

Oregon GCSA
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 1556
Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone: (503) 344-6535
ogcsa@ogcsa.org

The Oregon GCSA Oregon State University Turfgrass Management Application Form

Section 1 – Applicant Information

Name: **Ethan Erickson**

Date: **September 29th, 2021**

Broken Top Community Club
62000 Broken Top Dr.
Bend, Oregon 97702

Cell Phone: **(541) 390-3301**

Email: ethan.james.erickson@gmail.com

Section 2 – Employer information if applicant is not an Oregon GCSA Member

Name of Member: **Corey Beelke**
Club: **Broken Top Community Club**

Cell Phone: **(541) 350-5692**

Email: cbeelke@gmail.com

Member Since: **March 2014**

Current Classification: **Class B**

Section 3 – Work History & Activities

Type of work	Employer	Employment dates
Greenskeeper	Broken Top Club	September 2013 - Sept. 2017
Irrigation Technician	Tetherow Golf Club	March 2018 - Dec. 2018
2nd Assistant Superintendent	Broken Top Club	January 2019 - April 2021
Assistant Superintendent	Broken Top Community Club	April 2021 - Present

List your activities outside of work (clubs, organizations, community service, etc.):

I have not had a lot of time outside of work in recent years but I try to make it to trail maintenance days in the central Oregon area and pre pandemic I would meet up with a couple local running clubs for weekly runs.

Section 4 – Applicant Letter of Interest

Attach a typed letter of interest that does not exceed 500 words. The letter of interest must be original and not previously submitted to Oregon GCSA. The letter should cover the following:

1. Why are you interested in completing the Oregon State University (OSU) Turfgrass Management PACE course and how will it assist you in your career in the industry?
 - **I have attached my letter of interest to the end of this document.**

Section 5 – Oregon GCSA Member letter of recommendation

Non-Oregon GCSA members: Attach a letter of recommendation from sponsoring Oregon GCSA member. The letter of recommendation must be composed on official letterhead, dated and signed. The letter of recommendation must be original and not previously submitted to Oregon GCSA.

Oregon GCSA Members: Attach a letter of recommendation from an industry peer, club management or club member.

- **I have attached a OGCSA member’s letter of recommendation to the end of this document.**

Certification

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Ethan Erickson
(Applicant’s Signature)

09/29/2021
(Date)

Letter of interest

Dear OGCSA Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my interest in the scholarship for the OSU Turfgrass Management Program series being offered by Oregon State University PACE.

My career in turf and golf course maintenance started as nothing more than a job to make ends meet after college. As time has moved on my interest in the industry has only grown. Every year my employers have noticed my work ethic and attention to detail which has led to taking on more responsibilities with each new season.

I believe that my next step to advance in the industry is to begin formal education based around turfgrass maintenance. Over the past eight years I feel that I have gained a fair amount of practical experience working with superintendents and maintaining a golf course. This past season has been a bit of a crash course in management of a crew and how to best utilize everyone's strengths and work around their weaknesses. Although I am beginning to feel comfortable with the course I currently work for and understand my region's climate I feel my knowledge of the finer details is lacking and may prevent me from advancing in the future.

I graduated from Oregon State University with a New Media Communications degree in 2013 and spent the majority of my time there working in a visually creative capacity for athletic departments, newspapers, and local sports teams. I believe this skill set has allowed me to create visual media to help our maintenance department demonstrate what we do and feel that this may be a useful skill to expand upon. Furthering my education in turfgrass will allow me to better communicate visually with a deeper vocabulary and knowledge base to pull from.

The environmental impact of the turfgrass industry is something that I also frequently find myself thinking about throughout the season. This year we seemed to need more water than past years which we will confirm with our records at the end of the season. Living in central Oregon and seeing the worsening drought conditions has left me wanting to better understand what we can do to minimize our water usage and I am hoping that growing my knowledge will help me find solutions in this regard.

The turfgrass management program with OSU is exactly the next step I have been looking for and this scholarship would be a great opportunity. I know that to advance my career in the turfgrass industry I need to further my education and learn new skills which I look forward to doing in the future hopefully with this program.

Thank you for your consideration for this scholarship and I look forward to hearing from the committee.

Sincerely,
Ethan Erickson

Letter of Recommendation

Oregon GCSA
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 1556
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Members of the Oregon GCSA,

I am writing on behalf of Ethan Erickson who is applying for the PACE Course Series Scholarship.

Ethan began his career here at Broken Top Club back in the fall of 2013. He has always shown an interest in the business and has been given more and more responsibility each year he has returned. From beginning as a greenskeeper, to now an assistant superintendent, he has shown a great deal of maturity in such a short time period and now is very respected amongst his peers.

Over the past three years, mother nature has given us some very challenging circumstances coming out of the winter months. From pumping excess water, seeding both greens and fairways dead spots, to completing sodding out a few greens, Ethan's attitude and work ethic was above all else. Simply put, he is the type of employee that no superintendent wants to lose.

Ethan graduated from Oregon State with a degree in photography. He has used his unique skill set to make some outstanding videos of our property as well several great photographs that our displayed in our clubhouse. He used his drone this past spring to develop a presentation that was presented to our Board of Directors. The project was quickly approved, which allowed us to remove several trees around a few greens and cart path areas. His continued desire to learn about the turfgrass industry is why I feel he would be such a great candidate for this scholarship. His hard work ethic and determination will certainly provide him with a very bright future and by expanding his knowledge, his career path would be endless.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Corey Beelke

Broken Top Club

Golf Course Superintendent

