

ACHIEVER SPOTLIGHT New Brunswick

MARIEL HORNCastle
Silver & Gold Award Achiever



Mariel Horncastle, an 18 year-old resident of Fredericton, graduated high school in 2018 from Fredericton High. She is a standout leader motivated by her dreams and passions. During her high school years, you could find Mariel playing volleyball, vigorously working away on her school work, and volunteering in her community.

During her time in the Award program, Mariel volunteered with the Horizon Health network, with the Best Buddies group at FHS, with the SPCA, and at Camp Rotary in Grand Lake. In June of 2017, she founded the FHS Mental Health Alliance in memory of her friend who tragically lost his life to depression at the young age of 14. Her goal of the Alliance is to raise awareness and get people talking about mental illness. Because of these efforts, she received the Thomas Keats Memorial Scholarship and The Saint John Regional Hospital MindCare Scholarship. Both of these awards are presented annually to a high school graduate who has made a significant contribution to mental health initiatives. Through her service component of the program, Mariel has decided to pursue a career in medicine.

87%
of Gold Awardees
gained confidence
to pursue their
Career Goals
through The Award

Mariel was introduced to the Duke of Ed program two years ago by her Outdoor Pursuits teacher, Shawn Ells. She did not think twice about joining the program so she dove right into it! Mariel achieved her Silver Award in 2016 and was presented with her Silver Award by the Lieutenant Governor of NB, Her Honour Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau. She achieved her Gold Award in 2017 and will be presented with her Gold certificate at a future Gold Award ceremony. She considers her Duke of Ed Awards to be one of her greatest achievements to date. She comments **“Since the completion of each standard takes a minimum of 52 weeks, each can easily be compared to a marathon as opposed to a sprint. This program has not only presented itself as a fulfilling challenge, but has driven me out of my comfort zone and has added an array of new skills to my repertoire. I would absolutely love to continue my Duke of Edinburgh journey by volunteering, and helping other participants find the same joy that I was able to uncover in the completion of my Awards.”**

Mariel's favorite part of the program was the adventurous journey section where she took on the tough challenge of scaling Mount Katahdin, the highest peak in Maine. She reached the summit both times, a climb of 5,269 feet. The trips renewed her love of the outdoors and have inspired her to be more active in her daily life.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award champions young Canadians to take ownership of their present and future by expanding their skill sets, broadening their experiences, and testing their limits. Mariel is such a great example of how The Award program can help a young person to realize that they can truly make a difference in their community. We are proud to call Mariel a New Brunswick Duke of Ed Silver and Gold Award achiever, and we wish her much success in her future endeavours!