

Connor Bradley
Laborde Earles Maritime Workers Scholarship



I am inspired and interested in the maritime industry because I have always had a love of the ocean and I desire to dedicate my studies to pursue Marine Transportation so I can travel the world and eventually captain a ship. I am not the type of person that can be satisfied with a career that requires sitting behind a desk and look forward to challenging myself both physically and mentally. I am a four sport varsity scholar athlete at Morro Bay High School, an Eagle Scout with Troop 214 Morro Bay/Los Osos, and currently an ocean lifeguard for the City of Morro Bay. I also have previous experience as a BSA ocean lifeguard at Camp Emerald Bay in Catalina where I was a merit badge instructor to Scouts for rowing, swimming, lifesaving, kayaking, snorkeling, and stand-up paddle boarding.

I have always had a love of the outdoors, and I mountain bike all of the Central Coast trails when I am not involved in team sports. Additionally, my years of involvement in the Boy Scouts and as an adult leader has instilled in me a commitment to community service and a sense of appreciation for nature.

Growing up in a fishing community, I have gained a true sense of what it means to be tied to the maritime industry. Our local fisherman support the economy by providing the daily catch to restaurants and residents. My father owns a small fishing boat and I have experience as his deck hand when we venture out to find fish for our own table. Fishing with my father helped me realize the value of hard work and delayed gratification as there is never a guarantee that we will come home with anything.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with a Maersk Line Captain who is Cal Maritime alumni and lives in my city. He has agreed to mentor me through my college studies and provide me with a sea training internship on his large container ship. He has been a great inspiration to me by giving me insight to the challenges, dangers, and realities of a life at sea.

I am excited about the opportunity to work in a field that requires complete dedication and very few people are willing and able to do. I see this career as not only a path to financial independence, but also as a chance to participate in the crucial need for goods movement to provide our society with necessary food and supplies, which is more important than ever in this current world-wide pandemic.

I want to pursue my course of studies in this field because it will open the door to many professional opportunities in the maritime industry. I have been admitted to Cal Maritime Academy in Vallejo and I will be studying Marine Transportation, which is an impacted major and has a competitive admissions process. I will also be obtaining my US Coast Guard license, Third Mate, upon graduation so I can pursue a career as a Merchant Marine. This degree and coursework was designed for me and my method of learning. I am a “learn by doing” student, which means that I excel in classes that are hands-on and provide a combination of classroom and field studies. The Cal Maritime curriculum is perfect for me as it provides a broad understanding of the maritime industry, simulator experience, as well as navigation and ship handling skills. I will also get to participate in three training cruises which will prepare me to be a licensed deck officer on a large ship, tug, or ferry.

To develop my leadership skills, I will participate in the Cal Maritime Corps of Cadets, Deck Company for the Marine Transportation major. As I become an upperclassman, I will have the opportunity to mentor underclass cadets in the same major to ensure the requirements and routine of the Corps are met. I will also apply for the Strategic Sealift Officer Program so that I may serve our country and become a part of the U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command upon graduation.

Without a college education, specifically from a maritime college, I could not realize my dream of a life at sea. The Laborde Earles Maritime Workers scholarship of \$2500.00 would be meaningful to me and my family as the scholarship funds would help offset the approximate \$32,000.00 first year cost of attending Cal Maritime as I am trying to limit the amount of educational loans I incur.