

NEWS RELEASE



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

For Immediate Release

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Ethan Bjelland Awarded the Sons of Norway Foundation's King Olav V Norwegian- American Scholarship

Minneapolis, June 26, 2008 – Ethan Bjelland of Decorah, IA, was awarded a Sons of Norway Foundation King Olav V Norwegian-American Scholarship, given to students with a plan of study focusing on Norwegian heritage or modern Norway at an institution of higher learning.

Bjelland is is a member of Valdres Lodge 1-503 in Decorah IA. He began taking Norwegian classes at Skogfjorden when he was six years old and has been returning for the last 10 years. Ethan is also a Nordic Dancer for Decorah's annual Nordic Fest and has led some hands-on learning programs as entertainment for the festival.

Sons of Norway Foundation Director Cindy Olson said, "The Sons of Norway Foundation has proudly awarded educational scholarships since 1966. We strive to improve our communities through education while preserving our Norwegian

culture and heritage for future generations. The King Olav V Norwegian-American scholarship program ensures this, while promoting global citizenship, by encouraging American students to study Norwegian culture and Norwegian citizens to study American culture. We are proud to have 2008 recipient Ethan Bjelland as one of our scholars."

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SONS OF NORWAY...

- ★ Is the largest Norwegian-American organization in the world
- ★ Works to preserve and promote Norwegian heritage and culture
- ★ Provides financial protection through quality insurance products
- ★ Awards scholarships and grants to support individual lodges in their studies, projects, programs and humanitarian efforts

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His Royal Majesty, King Olav V of Norway, allowed the Sons of Norway Foundation to use his name in establishing a fund to promote cultural exchange between Norway and North America. The fund welcomes both Norwegian and North American applicants, 18 years of age or older.

The Sons of Norway Foundation celebrates culture and expands the horizons of our members by awarding scholarships and grants to promote the heritage and culture of Norway, and provides assistance to our members, lodges and their communities. Since 1966 we have awarded over 2,000 scholarships and more than 400 grants totaling over \$1 million. For more information on this scholarship and the Sons of Norway Foundation, visit <http://www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation>.

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