



Maritime Patrol Association Scholar

Preston Wilkerson

Apollo Beach, Florida

Sponsor: CDR Robert Wilkerson

College: University of Florida

2024-2025: Freshman

Major: Marine Sciences

Academic & Extracurricular Highlights:

- Varsity Football
- Coastal Conservation Club
- National Honors Society
- George Mason University's Washington Youth
- Summit on the Environment (WYSE)
- Under Armour Under The Lights Flag Football
- Tampa Sailing Squadron Youth Sailing Program



Receiving a Wings Over America 2024 Maritime Patrol Association Scholarship is meaningful to me because the Maritime Patrol Association has had a huge impact on my life. My dad was in the Navy for 21 years as a pilot specializing in maritime patrol, and the Maritime Patrol Association was (and still is) an organization that helps keep our family connected to the people and heritage of the community post-retirement. As I begin the next chapter of my life completely unrelated to the military, the Maritime Patrol Association is still enriching my experience by honoring the commitment of my dad and my family by providing this valuable scholarship. Receiving this scholarship will benefit my educational experience at the University of Florida and allow me to continue to chase my career goals and life passions of protecting our world's coastal environments and the organisms that call these habitats home by providing a place for my explorative mindset to thrive.