

Amanda Preston, a graduating Senior at Paul Smith's College, is the **2018 Ecology and Environment Richard D. Morse Award** Winner. She is majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry with academic focusses on environmental science, ecological and micro biology, and public health outreach. Most of her time at Paul Smith's has been spent working towards a career in environmental science education. While at college she has been a Welcome Week and Winter Welcome Peer Leader, a Peer Tutor, a Supplemental Instruction Leader, a TRIO Mentor, and a Success Leader all for the school's Academic Success Center. Her capstone project was on the topic of "Monitoring Tick-Borne Diseases in an Emergent Area".

Amanda has a lifelong passion for the outdoors. Growing up she worked summers at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp as a Junior Counselor, Natural Resource Instructor, and in her final year as the Camp Director. That experience sparked her interest in the environment and Paul Smith's College. Amanda enjoys music and plays the piano, guitar, ukulele, mandolin, and sometimes melodica. At Paul Smith's she was a regular participant in Open Mic Night.

Amanda was on the Snowshoe team in 2015 and placed 3rd in the women's 20-29 year old category of the World Snowshoe Championships in Quebec. In 2017, she re-won that title in Saranac Lake. She is currently on the canoe team and plans to do the 90miler in the fall. She is a Saranac Lake 6er, and working towards being a 46er. Amanda loves hiking in the summer and cross country skiing in the winter. She participated in the Climate March in 2017 and was featured in Curt Stager's film "Hidden Heritage: New Findings About The Adirondacks' Native American Past" in 2017.

Amanda's love of the outdoors, the environment, sports, music, and the Adirondacks, certainly embodies the spirit of the Morse Award. Rick would be proud that such a deserving young woman is the 2018 Awardee". Amanda will use the \$500 Award for future educational experiences. Amanda is pictured below on Ampersand Mountain (photo provided).

