



Candidate # 168883

Children's Hospital Colorado
Foundation

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to recommend [REDACTED] for a scholarship from the Patient Advocate Fund. [REDACTED] has been an exceptional volunteer with the Patient Ambassador Program at Children's Hospital Colorado for the last two years and has used her journey battling a serious illness to help bring change and advocate for funding for life-saving care that will help many children and teens in the future.

[REDACTED]'s journey at Children's Hospital Colorado began when she faced a serious eating disorder which required intensive treatment at the hospital. Through resilience and determination, she not only overcame her challenges, but she also transformed her experience into a platform for advocacy. Today, [REDACTED] is thriving as a high school student and varsity cheerleader, and she uses her voice to inspire others.

As an Ambassador, [REDACTED] has spoken in front of large audiences, shared her story on the radio, and volunteered at numerous events to connect personally with donors. Her ability to articulate her experience with honesty and grace has helped raise awareness about eating disorders and the importance of specialized care. [REDACTED]'s presence at these events has been invaluable; she engages donors one-on-one, answers questions thoughtfully, and conveys the profound impact that programs like ours have on patients and families.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is her authenticity and her commitment to helping others. She understands that others can learn from her story and uses it to advocate for resources that save lives. Her maturity, poise, and compassion make her an outstanding candidate for your scholarship. [REDACTED] exemplifies resilience and leadership—qualities that will serve her well in her academic pursuits and beyond.

Thank you for considering [REDACTED] for this opportunity. I am confident she will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,

Jaime Berg Cady, Marketing Manager

Children's Hospital Colorado

jberg-cady@childrenscoloradofoundation.org



Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals

SupportChildrensColorado.org

EIN: #84-0813462

Anschutz Medical Campus | 13123 E. 16th Avenue, Box 045, Aurora, CO 80045 | 720-777-1700
Colorado Springs | 111 S. Tejon Street, Suite 309, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | 719-266-3597

Hi my name is [REDACTED], I am seventeen years old, and a senior at Douglas County High School. I plan to attend Pennsylvania State University to be apart of the Cheer team upon admission.

I believe one of my strongest strengths is my ability to create inclusive and supportive environments, whether that is at cheer practice, work, Children's Hospital, or the SSN classrooms. I strongly value putting others first and making sure they are surrounded by love and encouragement. As a society we are nothing without kindness and empathy towards others. Another strength of mine would be my willingness to publicly speak, and advocate for mental health. Mental health is a struggle everyone faces at some point in their life. Although these struggles are different for everyone, the fear of searching for help is always present. I love to partake in public speaking opportunities surrounding mental health to remind others that they aren't alone; unfortunately their struggles are extremely common. I value my role as a voice representing those who might not be able to use theirs!

The ultimate goal I hold for myself is to pursue an occupation where I help others, hands on, everyday. This would be as an Emergency Medicine Doctor. I plan to achieve this goal by attending a university for four years, and a medical school afterwards; followed by a 4 to 5 year residency. I know this goal is huge, and sometimes unattainable. I also know that if I feel passionately about something there is no reason I shouldn't try. It is a matter of applying myself and finding the perfect level of consistency.

For me, contributing to my community and the state surrounding it consisted of my different things. One of my biggest accomplishments was my role as a Children's Hospital Colorado Patient Ambassador. I took part in many community events. CSU Dance Marathon, attending Purina's 100,000 dollar donation toward the medical dogs, filming a CBS Denver News segment which brought awareness to eating disorders, speaking at the annual Courage Classic Bike Race, attending the Children's Hospital Gala, and explains to donors why their donations mean so much to the hospital, sharing my story on the 105.9 radio, and much more advocating across social media. This role introduced me to many other individuals around Castle Rock who face the same struggles as me. I was able to help them get the help they needed. Another contribution of mine would be my commitment to the Douglas County Unified Cheer Team. Each fall I would attend unified cheer practice and competitions to help these athletes feel included and valued amongst the sport of cheerleading.

To me Castle Rock is my forever home. I moved here initially when I was 7. This town introduced me to my best friends, as well as life long family. Other than the great relationships I have made here, Castle Rock has also provided me with an education for the last ten years, alongside that this town introduced me into the sport of cheerleading, which I now could never go without. Castle Rock has not only shape me into the woman I am today, but will shape me into the woman I grow into for the foreseeable future!

Candidate # 168973



Castle Rock Elementary
1103 Canyon Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-387-5000 (main office)
303-387-5001 (fax)

Dr. Deb Warr, Principal
Tony Lamb, Asst. Principal

Letter of Recommendation for [REDACTED]

To the Castle Rock Youth Commission Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I recommend [REDACTED] for The Town of Castle Rock Rising Star Scholarship. [REDACTED] is a remarkable young woman whose contributions to her school and the greater Castle Rock community truly embody the spirit of this award. She does not simply participate—she elevates the people and spaces around her.

[REDACTED] is a senior at Douglas County High School who balances strong academic performance with meaningful community involvement. Maintaining a 3.89 weighted GPA while engaging in rigorous coursework such as AP English Language, AP Literature, and IB Global Politics, she demonstrates discipline and intellectual curiosity. However, it is her consistent impact beyond the classroom that sets her apart.

For years, [REDACTED] has been deeply involved in the Castle Rock dance community. Dancing five to six nights a week requires extraordinary commitment, but she has transformed her passion into service. As a dance instructor at Boutique Dance Academy, [REDACTED] mentors younger students, helping them build not only technical skill but confidence and resilience. She leads by example—modeling kindness, accountability, and perseverance. Younger dancers look up to her not just for her talent, but for her encouragement and steady presence.

[REDACTED]'s commitment to our community extends well beyond the studio. Since 2021, she has provided dependable childcare and pet-sitting services for local families, earning their trust and respect. She volunteers at Castle Rock Elementary School and consistently supports local camps, rehearsals, and performances.

[REDACTED] shows up—whether for a classroom of elementary students, a young dancer who needs encouragement, or a family who needs support. Her contributions may not always be loud or headline-grabbing, but they are deeply meaningful and lasting.

What makes [REDACTED] a true “Rising Star” is the way she positively influences others. She strengthens the confidence of younger students. She brings responsibility and professionalism to every commitment. She contributes to the vibrancy of the Castle Rock youth community through mentorship, service, and leadership rooted in character.

[REDACTED] plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in business while continuing to dance at the collegiate level. I have no doubt she will carry the same drive, compassion, and initiative into her future endeavors. More importantly, I am confident she will continue finding ways to invest in our Castle Rock communities—just as she has always done.

I recommend [REDACTED] without reservation. She represents the very best of Castle Rock's youth: dedicated, community-minded, hardworking, and quietly transformative in her impact on others.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Warr, Ed.D.

I do everything for a reason, and I believe that I was put on this earth for a reason. I grew up with a mom who was a teacher and has now been teaching for 27 years. Because of this, I am very familiar with the classroom. Everyone in the school knew who I was. My mom has been a 2nd grade teacher for the past 8 years at Castle Rock Elementary. My “unbiased” opinion would say she is probably one of the few phenomenal public school teachers that Castle Rock has to offer, and I know others would agree. Now, being around her in her classroom for so long has taught me so much. My Freshman year, I even volunteered at CRE to help with their school play. I was ecstatic at this opportunity as I did the play back when I went there, so it felt very nostalgic. However, I underestimated how hard it would be. I assumed that telling kids to be quiet would be quite easy, but unfortunately, it was a bit more work than that.

Taking away what I learned from volunteering at CRE, my Sophomore year of High School, I was asked at my dance studio to assist a “pre-acro” class. For those who don’t know what that is, it's a toddler class for tumbling. This class was massive and required three assistants along with the teacher. I really had to learn how to not only work with kids, but also with other assistants who may not have the same teaching and instructing style as I. That was the real challenge. Finally, the summer before my Junior year I began training to become a dance teacher in the fall. I assisted a “Pee-Wee” camp for toddlers, along with a “Trolls” themed dance camp. Finally, I started my teaching journey in the Fall of 2025.

I have been teaching since, and I have absolutely been loving it. It has taught me so much patience with children and their parents. I have had the opportunity to teach them what I know, with the challenge of making it fun and simple for them to learn efficiently. I have also gotten to create dances for the kids to perform on stage to show their parents what they’ve learned in class. I, of course, am still on stage with them, but it’s amazing to see their stage presence even at such a young age.

From all these experiences, I believe that I was put in this place to do what I love, and dance. Though also to help others do what they love. I love to believe that I have made an impact on many children through teaching and being an active member of Castle Rock, but these children have taught me

more lessons than I could have ever taught them. I have been blessed to be put in this town to find who I am and who I could be.



Rock Canyon High School

A Douglas County School

5810 McArthur Ranch Rd.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80124-5207
(303) 387-3000 Fax (303) 387-3001

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend [REDACTED] for admission to your institution. I taught [REDACTED] in Algebra II during her junior year. [REDACTED] is a hard working, motivated, and dedicated student. She was always prepared for any assessment, and made sure to complete any assignments that were tasked to her.

[REDACTED] has been deeply involved in her school community through a variety of activities including Key Club, UNICEF, RCTV, and serving as a manager for the wrestling team. In these roles she helps organize film projects to support her coaches. She has also earned recognition for film including two RCTV film production awards. Additionally, she is a four year varsity soccer player as well as a captain of her club team for two years. These activities demonstrate her ability to balance academics while being involved in several extracurricular activities.

Outside of school, [REDACTED] has completed more than 55 volunteer hours. She has supported newborns in need at the Children's Hospital, the Light the Night fundraiser for cancer research, and Link Crew, where she welcomed freshmen into high school. She also volunteered at a local elementary school, helping teachers prepare classrooms and materials for students. Throughout the year, I remember [REDACTED] doing similar things. Another one of my students, her friend, wasn't doing as well in class and [REDACTED] helped excel her to a B. Acts like this show you that she is passionate about helping those around her in the present and the future.

[REDACTED] is also thoughtful about her future. She is passionate about psychology, drawn to understanding how people think and make decisions, and she has already begun pursuing this interest through her coursework. At the same time, she has found another passion in hospitality, currently participating in the Culinary and Hospitality Pathway at DCSD Legacy Campus. There she earned a Safety and Sanitation certificate. She plans to continue this path during college.

[REDACTED] is a hardworking, dependable, and ambitious student. I am confident she will thrive in college and contribute meaningfully to her campus community. It is with great pride that I recommend her for your institution. Please reach out to me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Austin Bennett
Math Teacher
Rock Canyon High School

██████████ - Rising Star Scholarship - Personal Statement

My name is ██████████, and I am a resident of Castle Rock, Colorado. I am an outgoing and social person who loves spending time with my friends and family. I enjoy binge-watching TV shows, going skiing, working out, and trying new things. I began playing soccer for the Castle Rock Rapids when I was in sixth grade and advanced to the competitive level, where I played up until my most recent injury last April. Despite my injury, soccer gave me a team that brought me friendships, joy, and the opportunity to grow as a leader and captain.

I currently attend Rock Canyon High School and am dually enrolled in the Culinary and Hospitality Pathway through DCSD Legacy Campus. At DCSD Legacy Campus, I have had the opportunity to explore my creativity through Culinary Arts. I have learned how to create and produce a menu, along with developing numerous culinary skills. I initially applied for the program because I was interested in baking and cooking and thought the class would simply be a fun way to earn credits for graduation. However, that initial interest has grown into a potential career path. Through this program, I have also been introduced to the hospitality side of restaurants, which has sparked an interest in hospitality management and guided me toward a career in hotel management.

Through my work experience and school opportunities, I have learned the importance of customer service, leadership, teamwork, and organization. I consider myself highly organized and often take on leadership roles. Over the next five years, my goal is to complete college and earn a degree in Hospitality Management. During college, I plan to pursue internships and part-time positions at hotels in order to develop my skills and gain the hands-on experience needed to succeed in my field. After graduation, I aim to begin my career in an entry-level hotel position and eventually advance to a higher management role.

In our small town, my family and I enjoy supporting local businesses and attending community events such as the Star Lighting, the Sunday Farmers Markets in Festival Park, the Fair and Rodeo, shopping at The Barn, of course, and visiting other local shops. Legacy Campus has also helped me secure an internship at our local Great Divide Brewery, where I am learning front-of-house skills and how to connect with the community. Because I love my hometown, I often bring family and friends to these local shops and events. I have even entered one of our classic cars into the Classic Rock Cruise-In Car Show.

My family and I moved to Castle Rock when I was young. Before living here, we never truly felt a sense of comfort or belonging in our community. Since moving to Castle Rock, we have loved the small-town feel. We have moved twice within The Meadows simply because we love the community and the area so much. Castle Rock truly means home to us.

September 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a pleasure to recommend [REDACTED] for admission. I have had the privilege of teaching [REDACTED] as a student for three years as a student in my ACC Spanish classes to earn concurrent enrollment credit with Arapahoe Community College. Furthermore, she will be honored at graduation with the Colorado Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish and English. She is recognized at Castle View High School as a resilient and compassionate student who excels both academically and athletically, demonstrating leadership in school and in life.

As a student, [REDACTED] is a quick learner and excels when faced with new academic challenges. She is sensitive to the needs of others and encourages those who may be struggling with new material or with difficult life situations. She has become a strong young woman with an effective voice for herself and others. [REDACTED] has learned that respect and responsibility promote positive attitudes and actions in others.

[REDACTED] plans to major in kinesiology or biology, paired with a minor in Spanish. This reflects both her intellectual ambition and her commitment to serving her community both locally and globally. Her study of Spanish will enhance her occupational therapy and work with children and families.

What distinguishes [REDACTED] from other students is her remarkable grit and perseverance. She welcomes challenges in rigorous coursework and sport, while working part-time jobs. She has successfully learned to practice balance and time-management. Her second-place finish at a national rock-climbing competition, despite being relatively new to this sport, is proof of her determination.

Outside the classroom, [REDACTED] has shown a commitment to service. From working at Chick-fil-A and ZA Bracci's to babysitting and volunteering in the children's wing at Plum Creek Church, she has consistently prioritized helping others. Her involvement in Vacation Bible School and a peer internship program further highlight her leadership and compassion.

[REDACTED] has earned my highest recommendation. I have great confidence in her future success and know she will be an asset in your campus community. Accordingly, please grant her your highest consideration for admission.

Please feel free to reach out if more information is needed.

Sincerely,

Deena Ellis

ACC Spanish Instructor @ Castle View High School

dcellis@dcsdk12.org

██████████
Mrs. Peterson

AP Language and Composition

23/09/24

Perfect Placement

The left drawer in my desk is filled to the brim with stickers. Hundreds of stickers sharing stories about my values, where I've been, and what I think is funny. I bought stickers from every climbing gym I've been to, every national park I've been to, and many on Redbubble (a sticker store online) to find the funny ones. My favorites are a mountain goat with a harness on rock climbing from Movement Gym, a bowl of pasta stating "legalize marinara" from Redbubble, and the Bible verse Ecclesiastes 11:4 with red rocks surrounding it from Zion National Park. All with the paper backs still on them.

For years I have collected all of these stickers afraid to place them on anything. What if I place it imperfectly? What if I find a better place later on? What if my favorite sticker is worn down? If I do finally commit to placing the sticker and its wrinkled, will my stomach churn at the sight of it? These thoughts spiral through my head not only regarding stickers but in every aspect of my life. I strive to make the right decision at the right time in every situation but am often paralyzed by the thoughts of imperfections and wrong timing. Once you place a sticker the original adhesiveness and potential is lost. It feels like an irreversible mistake.

I would dread every part of my life concerned about the outcome. Needing to have a perfect plan of what was going to happen consumed me. Working myself up over little things just to realize that I was always striving for perfection and perfect timing even though it was never achievable or going to happen.



I'm not perfect and I hate it.

It has always been so hard to admit that I'm not perfect and I will never be. If I am always waiting for the perfect time or place to do something, it will never happen. Ecclesiastes 11:4 states "Those who wait for perfect weather will never plant seeds; those who look at every cloud will never harvest crops." No one is perfect and no one has perfect timing except God. Accepting that God's plan and timing is the only perfect one has allowed me to let go of trying to achieve perfection and leave it up to Him.

As I've been trying to accept that perfection is not achievable for people, I realized that I have formed the best connections and laughed the most with people when I'm not striving for perfection. Being vulnerable about my imperfections makes me more human and allows me to form deeper bonds with others. Connecting over my imperfections has brought me to realize that no one is perfect even if they seem like it on the outside. The way I laugh in serious situations, how I'm more muscular than many boys I know, the way a letter grade consumes my life, and how I care so deeply about others is all okay. When I stop trying to plan exact details and times when being with people, the time with them becomes more enjoyable and allows me to live in the moment.

I'm not perfect and that's okay.

Once I realized I can't be perfect and no time will be "perfect" and that's perfectly okay, I started to get back into things I enjoyed like painting. Before I would spiral about if the painting didn't turn out like the inspo picture or if I made a mistake. The thoughts stressed me out, so I avoided it at all costs. Accepting imperfection allows me to express my feelings through art. If all the flowers I would paint were exactly the same and "perfect," the painting would lack originality and not look real. Real is imperfection.



Go place that sticker.

Katie Bower
Douglas County High School
kabower@dcsdk12.org
720-250-8799

To whom it may concern,

I would like to highly recommend [REDACTED] for the Rising Stars Scholarship opportunity. I have had the privilege of working with [REDACTED] since her freshman year in my Spanish course, and I have continued to work closely with her as an active member and current leadership member of the Spanish Honor Society, as well as a student in my Theory of Knowledge class, a requirement of the rigorous IB Diploma program. Since our very first meeting on 8th grade orientation night, [REDACTED] has been enthusiastic and highly motivated, an attitude that has not wavered in the face of incredible academic and organizational challenges. [REDACTED] is empathetic, dedicated and resilient, and addresses challenges with tenacity and curiosity. She is a perfect candidate for the Rising Stars Scholarship.

[REDACTED] is a thoughtful and meticulous student who approaches every task with careful reflection and a commitment to excellence. As the logistics coordinator for Spanish Honor Society, she has been instrumental in planning and maintaining our member and school-wide events, most notably our large-scale Car Show event last year where her attention to detail and organizational skills were essential to the event's success. Her dedication to the Honor Society is comprehensive, stepping up to encourage peer participation in field trips and service activities. What sets [REDACTED] apart is her genuine engagement with the community and her work ethic dedicated to benefiting others. As an organizer of youth I really appreciate her sense of social awareness and insight about potential problems which has helped our groups avoid a number of missteps. Her consistency is also notable, an attribute that helps her stand out among her peers.

On our community service trip to Berlin, she demonstrated remarkable cultural awareness and empathy, approaching each experience with curiosity and embracing all the wonder that comes with international travel. As a biliterate student—her mother is from El Salvador—[REDACTED] brings authentic bicultural perspective to our classroom discussions and advocates thoughtfully for clear understanding so she can perform at her best. She reflects carefully on her own work, consistently seeks to improve, and brings both intellectual rigor and compassionate leadership to every community she joins. [REDACTED] combination of meticulous attention to detail, cultural awareness, and genuine commitment to service makes her an exceptional candidate who will undoubtedly contribute meaningfully to any program or opportunity she pursues.

Sincerely,

Katie Bower

Personal Statement

I am a hard working, dedicated young woman who enjoys contributing back to the community of Castle Rock. My strengths include being devoted, organized, and using my critical thinking skills to overcome challenges. I do exceedingly well using my cognitive abilities in the subjects of math and science. I plan to obtain a Bachelor's and perhaps a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics. Past that, I hope to be a part of the work force at either Amazon or NASA. I plan to achieve these goals by studying at University of Colorado Boulder, succeeding in my classes, and later using my Applied Mathematics knowledge at my future job. I also plan to participate in internships that improve my real world application skills so large organizations like Amazon and NASA will see me as a reliable, motivated employee.

Currently, I have contributed to the community of Castle Rock by helping to organize a car show for the Spanish Honors Society at Douglas County High School. This car show allowed local small Hispanic businesses to sell their products. As one of the presidents of the club, I invited the Vintage Car Club of Castle Rock to join. As a result, we had significantly more cars in the show and the individuals in the car club helped support the small businesses. This car show was a wonderful opportunity to bring awareness to local Hispanic businesses and share cultural backgrounds. Based on the success of the show, we are planning to have another car show this Spring.

I have contributed to the Castle Rock community as a teen temporary election judge at the Douglas County Elections Office for three years. I was excited to partake in the democratic function of the government and do my part to offer secure and reliable opportunities for the voters in my community. I have also been actively involved with my local church as a Sunday School Teacher for four years. The goal of Sunday School is to help young children grow in their faith. I typically work with children in third grade and lower. I teach children about the Bible through crafts, drawing, watching short films, and reading. Furthermore, as a pianist for over nine years, I have been able to connect with my local community. Every Fall and Spring, my piano teacher, fellow piano students, and I play our music for seniors at assisted living homes in Castle Rock and Parker. This is very important for the individuals in the community because it allows them to connect with their emotions and enjoy the beauty of musical sound.

Castle Rock means home to me. I have lived my whole life here in Castle Rock and it has been one of the best towns in America to grow up in. I believe it is part of my duty to contribute back to the community in Castle Rock as the community has done for me.

Scholarship Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED], who is applying for a scholarship with your institution. I recently moved to Castle View High School and while I have only known [REDACTED] for this current school year, he has quickly had an impact on my experience and teaching in a great way! [REDACTED] has taken my college-concurrent Personal Finance class as well as currently taking my concurrent Computer Application class. He is more than just an exceptional student, [REDACTED] is also very active in student government, including helping organize our biggest day as a school- Showdown. Showdown is a school-wide, class versus class that brings together all the students for friendly games, building school spirit, and welcoming all the new freshmen to our culture. There isn't another person that I can think of that I would rather have than [REDACTED] in charge of this event. He is not only an extremely friendly person, but he goes out of his way to welcome others, get kids involved, and his passion and care for the school shine brightly through his eyes when he talks about Showdown!

This year, [REDACTED] is not only taking almost all college level concurrent courses, he is also joining and participating in both FBLA and DECA (both national business clubs). These clubs are not mandatory, but [REDACTED] has found a strong interest in not only learning more about business, but he wants to continue to develop his leadership skills. His pursuit of success in FBLA and DECA reflects his strong ability to think critically and problem-solve in real-world situations. [REDACTED] qualified for the FBLA State Leadership Conference in April in his event, Project Management. This is the type of forward-thinking, self-improvement mindset that [REDACTED] will bring to your campus.

In addition to academics, clubs and student government, [REDACTED] is also a tremendous soccer player. In fact, he has served as captain of the varsity team for three years. His leadership style is best described by displaying a strong work ethic, excellent communication, and a deep commitment to the team's success. He consistently inspired his teammates, setting an example through his dedication, sportsmanship, and focus. His role as a leader on such a competitive team speaks volumes about his ability to balance responsibility, teamwork, and leadership, which will undoubtedly serve him well in the future.

What truly sets [REDACTED] apart, however, is his humility. Despite his many achievements, he remains grounded, approachable, and eager to learn from others. He takes the time to process information and considers different viewpoints, demonstrating a unique maturity for someone his age. His respect for others and integrity make him a role model for his peers. He approaches every challenge with determination and respect for those around him.

I have no doubt that [REDACTED] will bring the same level of dedication, humility, and respect to your campus that he has shown here at Castle View High School. He is a deserving candidate for your scholarship and he will undoubtedly continue to excel in all his future endeavors.

Thank you for considering the application for [REDACTED], please get in touch with me at mblamey@dcsdk12.org or 970-623-1159 if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,
Matt Blamey
Castle View High School
Business Teacher



Scholarship Personal Statement

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I have come to realize that growth does not happen when we are comfortable, but rather when we are challenged, pushed, and even, at times, when we are doubted. Whether it is on the soccer field, in the classroom, or as a member of the school leadership team, I have learned to take these moments as opportunities to grow into a stronger, more capable version of myself.

Soccer has been a part of my life for over a decade, and it has influenced not only the work ethic I bring to the table, but also the way I view leadership. It has taken me through the highs of winning, as well as the struggles of losing. Both have taught me valuable lessons. It has taught me how to remain composed when the situation calls for it, how to lead by example, and how to hold myself accountable, not just for myself, but also for the attitude and the energy that I bring to the table. It has taught me the true meaning of leadership: it is not about control or being recognized, but rather about being consistent, trustworthy, and someone others can count on when it counts the most.

As a second-generation American, my entire life has been one of balance between my family's values and my opportunities. Watching my family create a foundation for themselves has given me an immense appreciation for the sacrifices that create opportunities. But it has also given me a sense of responsibility, not just to be successful, but to be successful with what has been given to me.

Throughout my scholastic career, I have sought out opportunities to apply my mindset to situations, whether through leadership positions or civic engagement. Participating in mock Congress and policy-based projects has given me the chance to apply my perspective to real-world problems while refining my skills in collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. This has shown me that being a leader is not just about titles, it's about contributing to the conversation, listening to others, and working toward solutions with significant impact.

As I look forward, I see myself continuing to grow as a student and as a leader. What drives me is the idea of stepping into new situations, challenging my perspectives, and learning from those around me. Success is not just a goal, it's a process, and one that I am ready to continue working toward. The lessons that I have learned from my time playing soccer, from my education, and from my family have prepared me to take on this challenge with confidence and determination.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Mrs. Robyn Jansen

Douglas County High School

Castle Rock, CO 80104

rjansen@dcsdk12.org

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my great honor to write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED], who is one of my amazing seniors I have had the pleasure of working with over the last four years, and have built a stronger connection this year as her Post Grad counselor. I had the pleasure of first meeting [REDACTED] when she was in middle school. Even back then she was in Student Counsel and she immediately stood out from all of the rest.

[REDACTED] is the kind of person who remembers everyone and will take the time to say hello to all. Her kind voice echoes the halls as she greets everyone and makes everyone, student, teacher and staff member feel welcome and appreciated. She continues to impress me with her work ethic, integrity, leadership, and her willingness to give and serve others.

At school, she plays basketball, runs track/field and cross country, and is a Link Crew Leader and has been in student government for 3 years and is serving as Senior Class President this year—all while balancing Honors, AP, and IB classes. She does not limit her help, love and service to the school, she is out in the community helping with her work in Future Career Program at HCA HealthOne Sky Ridge Hospital where she volunteers every Sunday, works as a life guard, and is joining Youth Wish Champions through the Make A Wish Foundation.

With all of that going on, she is able to maintain a 3.8 unweighted/4.2 weighted GPA and a class rank of 33/402. [REDACTED] is an effective communicator, a competent writer, and not afraid to take a risk, be it in the classroom or with scholarships and future endeavors, she is always applying herself and is never afraid to ask questions or seek help. Most importantly, she understands it takes hard work, and she's willing to put in that hard work. She is very teachable and receptive to feedback and eager to improve.

[REDACTED] is widely respected by staff and students alike. I am confident that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will thrive in her future endeavors. She will make a significant impact wherever she goes, and any institution or organization would be fortunate to have her as a member.

Sincerely,

Robyn Jansen

Community is a huge component of my life and something I care for deeply. Throughout my time in high school, I learned that I value community involvement through participating in various activities. I joined student government in 5th grade and ever since I had stayed involved with it throughout elementary, middle, and high school. Student government gave me the confidence I needed to start building bridges with my community. In 5th grade, I planned my very first solo fundraiser, which was a bake sale benefiting Make-A-Wish Colorado, since then I stayed involved with the foundation. Throughout my time in student council, I have helped fundraise over \$100,000 towards the Make-A-Wish Foundation with various Wish Weeks and I am in the process of planning a community event with BonAdventure Living Center called “Senior Showdown”. In the fall of my senior year I joined a youth volunteer and ambassador program with Make-A-Wish Colorado called “Youth Wish Champions” and through this I have made connections with other teens passionate about raising awareness and spreading the mission of Make-A-Wish. In this program, I meet with my group members every other month to discuss everything going on at Make-A-Wish Colorado and we brainstorm ways to fundraise towards our Wish Kid, Madison. Currently I am in the process of personally fundraising at least \$1,000 for Make-A-Wish Colorado. In this program I hosted an awareness activity booth at Castle Rock’s annual Star Lighting ceremony and it was truly amazing to see its impact on the Castle Rock community. I remember people coming up to me and telling me their stories and affiliation with Make-A-Wish and how excited they were that there was a booth. The Castle Rock Star Lighting showed me the true meaning of community and that the Town of Castle Rock is a community that supports and uplifts one another.

In my last year of high school I learned just how important your community is, especially now that I see it fading as I get closer to graduation. Community goes far beyond geography or

the town you live in, it's the impact and the connections you build with others. Even though I am graduating from Douglas County High School, I will always have a community within its student council, athletic teams, FCCLA, link crew, and its student body because I made connections with them and those connections have shaped part of who I am today. I am proud to be a member of the Castle Rock Community and I will continue serving it while I pursue a career in medicine after high school.

To Whom It May Concern,

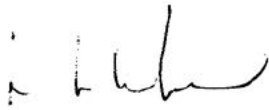
I have known [REDACTED] and his family for many years, and watching his growth from a young elementary school student into a dedicated leader has been a remarkable journey to witness.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is his enthusiasm for community service. He has consistently looked for ways to make his hometown of Castle Rock and the surrounding area safer and stronger. His dedication to the Arapahoe Rescue Patrol, a professional Search and Rescue team, is a perfect example; recently, he even told me about how he is starting to lead teams in the field. The role shows a level of maturity and calm under pressure that is rare for someone his age.

His growth in emergency services has been relentless. From learning the ropes as a Castle Rock Fire Rescue Explorer to his current EMT training with Arapahoe Community College. Even in his professional life at RNK Running and Walking, a locally owned and operated business, he stays rooted in supporting his neighbors and the local economy.

[REDACTED] is hardworking, humble, and dedicated to the well-being of others. I am proud to vouch for the incredible impact he has already made and the leader he is becoming.

Cordially,



Lisa Lehnus

Two blackhawks flying close overhead, the wind blowing my hair into a mess. The sound echoes off the grandeur of the mountains as they zoom by. Our team of six is searching for two missing hunters whose tracking devices stopped suddenly. Over 170 searchers, including search dogs, horses, and helicopters, are assisting us in the search.

We start by tracing the path their GPS device left, going from pinpoint to pinpoint on our way to our assigned search pattern. The terrain is steep, rocky, and has no shortage of cliffs. If I were here under any other circumstances, it would have been a beautiful hike. Walking, the terrain gets steeper as we approach their last pinpoint about a mile west of the trail. Two of us split off searching along a game path near their documented route, but we don't find anything. We believe that we have learned about their movements as much as we can, and take a route we thought they might take on the way to our search area. Not too long after we cross a stream and field, we enter a more forested area on yet another game trail. My heart skips a beat, my body tenses up, and I see one of the hunters lying down... deceased. It felt like forever before I could force my mouth to move. Finally, I said to our team, "Patient found." At once, everyone turns to me to see where I'm looking, then to the hunter. He was wearing full camo, blending into the forest. I look around, and at the same time, I see the second hunter. My teammate states, "I see the other hunter."

I thought about why I was here; curiosity has always driven me; I wanted to know how things worked, what each career was like. When I had the opportunity to join a program designed to teach high school students about the fire service through hands-on training and real-life experiences with patients and the community, I jumped at it. Quickly, I fell in love with helping people. I looked into where else I could help people in my community, and I found a Search and Rescue organization that was about to take on new members. I signed up. Every training felt purposeful, and being able to make a difference in someone's life was extremely rewarding. While sometimes sad and difficult, I want to help people no matter what. Make their worst days at least a little better. It was all I wanted to do. This strong desire to help people has driven me to pursue a career in healthcare, where I can make that difference.

March 23, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

It is an honor for me to recommend [REDACTED] for your consideration for the Rising Star Scholarship. I have had the privilege of coaching [REDACTED] in baseball at Castle View High School (Castle Rock, CO), and during that time, he distinguished himself as one of the most mentally strong and driven athletes I have ever worked with in my 22 years of coaching. His resilience, focus, and leadership on and off the field set him apart.

[REDACTED] athletic talents are impressive, but what truly defines him is his mental toughness and determination. He approaches challenges with composure, learns from setbacks, and consistently pushes himself to improve. These qualities were evident as he transitioned from baseball to golf, ultimately becoming the Colorado High School 5A State Golf Champion—a testament to his adaptability, discipline, and competitive spirit.

Beyond his achievements, [REDACTED] is an incredible person and a natural leader. He encourages his teammates, models accountability, and faces adversity with grace. His quiet confidence inspires those around him, and he brings the same level of commitment and integrity to academics as he does to sports.

[REDACTED] has the rare combination of talent, character, and perseverance that will allow him to thrive in college and beyond. Quite simply, [REDACTED] is a student/athlete that I would recommend above all others and without reservation. I am whole heartedly confident that he has contributed meaningfully to our community and will continue on the campus of the University of Colorado- Boulder.

Sincerely,
Abe Brown
Baseball Coach/English Teacher
Castle View High School
abrown5@dcsdk12.org
310-866-3948

I am a dedicated and driven student-athlete who values hard work, leadership, family and my community. At the age of 11, I moved from Pueblo, Colorado to Castle Rock, a place that quickly became “home” and played a defining role in my growth and success. Since then, I have embraced every opportunity this community has offered, striving to represent it with pride both academically and athletically.

One of my most significant qualities is my focus on long term goals, while keeping a positive attitude and working extremely hard. Golf has given me not only the discipline and resilience to pursue my dreams, but has also given me the chance to put Castle Rock on the map in junior golf. As one of the only junior golfers from Castle Rock to be selected to the 2025 and 2026 USGA Team Colorado, I have represented Castle Rock at a high level, while still pushing myself to become better. As a member of my high school golf team, I have had the honor of representing my school and contributing to a historic achievement by winning the first CHSAA 5A Individual State Golf Championship in school history. This experience reflects my commitment to excellence, teamwork, and representing something bigger than myself.

My goal after graduating from Castle View High School is to attend the University of Colorado-Boulder, where I will be competing on the 2026-2027 Men's Golf team while pursuing a degree in the Leeds School of Business. This is reflective of my commitment to academic excellence and my aspirations for my future. I intend to reach my goals by having a strong work ethic in the classroom, continue to develop my skills on the golf course, and accept opportunities to lead, which will allow me to grow as a person.

My commitment to our community began at a young age. In 6th grade at Soaring Hawk Elementary, I recognized a challenge faced by a staff member who was visually impaired and lacked reliable transportation to and from school. I organized a staff carpool sign-up for her, coordinating staff schedules and encouraging participation to make sure Ms. Z and her seeing eye dog could consistently get to and from school. This experience taught me the importance of initiative, empathy, and what it truly means to contribute to my school and community. I have continued my commitment by supporting and volunteering in the Douglas County School District Community Foundation Golf Tournament, the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation Golf Tournament, helping raise funds that directly benefit local schools. Additionally, my involvement in the Castle View Leadership Academy, the National Junior Honor Society, USGA Team Colorado, Castle View Varsity golf and baseball have also allowed me to serve as a role model and contribute positively to those around me.

Castle Rock means more to me than just a place to live, it is where I found my direction, built lasting relationships, and achieved milestones I once only dreamed of. It has shaped my character and inspired me to give back and represent it with integrity.

Dear Selection Committee,

This letter is regarding [REDACTED] and her application for the Castle Rock Rising Star Scholarship. I have known [REDACTED] since August as her Advanced Placement Literature and Composition teacher. I find her to be a perfect blend of an inquisitive, skilled, and personable young person.

I understand your scholarship is aimed at awarding graduates who demonstrate leadership, service, and dedication to their community. I can honestly say I have met few students in my long career who can match [REDACTED] in these areas. Besides being a highly motivated and skilled student, she consistently shows these attributes in her daily life as a student at Castle View High School.

In our class community, [REDACTED] leadership and dedication shines bright. In our discussion-based classroom, she leads by example. While not one to dominate a conversation, she is unafraid to begin. In a class with largely diffident students, she often takes the first leap in contributing her thoughts about complex literature. This act alone often saves us from extended silence. Her willingness to do that allows her peers to respond first to her before exploring their own thinking aloud. She contributes in a way that does not demand acceptance of her stance; rather, she accepts constructive criticism as an avenue for a more productive experience for everyone. As the teacher, I not only admire that, I know that it is critical to our collective growth.

In our larger school community, [REDACTED] has been quite active in our student government and various clubs and activities to help create the fabric of CVHS. This involves creating and leading both clubs and service opportunities. She was the Junior Class President in 2024-2025 providing a voice for her class for a variety of events and activities. And while she was forced to drop the Student Government class due to her Nursing program outside CV, she serves in less public ways. These include both NHS and LINK Crew - two service organizations designed to enhance the social and academic experiences of the CVHS student populations. However, my favorite service leadership activity is being the President of Book G.A.L.s. [REDACTED] is an ardent consumer of books, both fiction and nonfiction. And she helped create a space for others to share in her joy. I see them meet in the library, and I can *hear* their consistent joy of simply reading together. It's pure awesomeness.

Finally, [REDACTED] involvement continues into our larger Castle Rock and Douglas County communities. All DCSD graduates must complete 20 hours of community service. [REDACTED] has contributed close to 200 hours in a single location - The Labor and Delivery Department at AdventHealth Hospital. She has combined her passion and her knowledge with a community need. This is clearly not for the graduation requirement. This is clearly not to pad a resume (or scholarship application). This is clearly driven by her desire to serve.

Please accept this letter as the highest recommendation of [REDACTED]. Her list of achievements and contributions to her communities is nearly endless. But those alone fail to truly communicate her greatness. She is a wonderful, sassy, driven, powerful, and personable young woman who will shine wherever she lands. I am honored to know her, blessed to have shared a class with her, and confident that she will continue to grow and lead.

If this letter does not share enough, and I can somehow assist [REDACTED] earn your scholarship in any way, please reach out via email at mfschneider@dcsdk12.org or by phone at 303.519.3094. She is simply a wonderful human.

Sincerely,

Michael Schneider
English Teacher and Professional Learning Specialist

Throughout my high school career, I've been a children's swim instructor. Teaching young kids requires a surplus of patience, overcommunication, and a smile that never fades. Outwardly, this job seems like it would come easily to a personable and outgoing student like me, but what gets lost in translation is the amount of careful consideration required for every new learner. Every swim lesson is different, and every child learns at their own pace. In this unique position, I have learned to meet people where they are at and celebrate growth in any capacity. Teaching swimming brings me immense joy, and I am aware of the importance of my work. Through my attending a usual day at work and giving a regular, old swim lesson, I have the special privilege of teaching people lifelong skills and proactively helping save lives.

In recognizing the adoration I had for caring for and teaching people, I wanted to explore career options in the medical field. This is how I began volunteering in the Labor and Delivery unit at AdventHealth Hospital in Castle Rock. I figured that it would be a wonderful way to gain experience and expertise in preparation for my higher education path. What I didn't expect was that my experience in my future career path quickly became something much deeper. From celebrating the new mothers, calming anxious first-time fathers, and supporting hospital staff, I have come to recognize the beauty and necessity of listening and learning from the stories of others. These experiences reinforced and strengthened not only my empathy but also my ability to remain a calming presence in emotional situations for others.

My goal is to become a pediatric speech-language pathologist, where I can combine my love for teaching children with my passion for serving and seeing others. I plan to achieve this by pursuing an undergraduate degree in the Speech, Language, and Auditory Sciences major at CU Boulder this fall. I am eternally grateful for my career and volunteering experiences that have given me the clarity to move forward in my education, surefooted and excited about my next opportunity to learn. I understand that this path requires years of education and dedication, which I am prepared to meet with intense, passion-driven focus and a genuine love for the work.

I am the youngest of four children, and I am acutely aware of the value of higher education. The successes and accomplishments of my older siblings have demonstrated to me what is possible through pursuing my passions. I am endlessly inspired by their grit and determination, and I aim to take advantage of every resource provided to me to further my career development. Receiving this scholarship would make these resources and advanced programs more accessible and allow me to explore the various possible paths within Speech, Language, and Auditory Science. This scholarship is an investment in my education, but it is also an investment in the children and families I will serve in the future.



Candidate # 170253

October 30, 2025

Dear Admissions Committee,

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend [REDACTED] for admission to your institution. As the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Castle Rock, I have had the privilege of observing [REDACTED] growth and contributions over the past four years in a variety of roles within our department. Her work ethic, maturity, and strong sense of civic responsibility distinguish her as an exceptional young adult poised for academic and personal success.

[REDACTED] began her tenure with us as a birthday party host and quickly advanced to roles including front desk customer service representative and seasonal team member in our summer parks program. Throughout, she has consistently demonstrated technical proficiency, a keen analytical mind, and a commitment to delivering high-quality work. Whether solving logistical challenges or managing front-line customer interactions, [REDACTED] approaches each task with a level of professionalism and independence rarely seen in young staff members.

Her performance reviews reflect these strengths. Supervisors have commended her for her consistent accuracy, reliability, and ability to exceed expectations with minimal direction. [REDACTED] is the kind of team member who not only meets the responsibilities of her role but also enhances the performance and morale of those around her. She has willingly taken on difficult assignments, adapted quickly to change, and maintained an unblemished attendance record—never missing a shift unexpectedly.

Beyond her job responsibilities, [REDACTED] is an outstanding team player. She builds strong, respectful relationships with peers and supervisors alike and often volunteers to cover shifts or lend support at a moment's notice. Her time management skills, particularly when leading youth birthday events, are exemplary, and she fosters an inclusive, cooperative environment wherever she works.

[REDACTED] dedication extends well beyond paid employment. She has completed over 85 hours of volunteer service with our department. Her involvement with our Therapeutic Recreation programs and the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) has left a lasting impression. One particularly meaningful experience involved supporting her friend [REDACTED], a participant in our adaptive skiing program following a spinal injury. [REDACTED] accompanied him to Winter Park each Saturday, providing encouragement and support—an act that speaks volumes about her compassion and integrity.

Her involvement in community projects such as the groundbreaking of the Possibility Playground—a fully accessible and inclusive play space designed to ensure children of all abilities can play side by side—and the Kindness Rock initiative demonstrates a deep connection to her community and a strong

Town of Castle Rock
Parks and Recreation Department
1375 W. Plum Creek Parkway Castle Rock, CO 80109
CRgov.com/ParksandRec

drive to make a positive impact. These are not merely resume items; they are reflections of [REDACTED] character and values.

In summary, [REDACTED] embodies the qualities we hope to foster in our future leaders: intelligence, reliability, empathy, and a spirit of service. I have every confidence that she will thrive in a collegiate environment and contribute meaningfully to your campus community. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Jeff Brauer

C2023CB0DAFF460...

Jeff Brauer

Director of Parks and Recreation
Town of Castle Rock
jbrauer@CRgov.com
(303) 814-7446

Parks and Recreation Department
Miller Activity Complex at Philip S. Miller Park
1375 W. Plum Creek Parkway Castle Rock, CO 80109 P: 303.814.7444 F: 303.660.2022
CRgov.com/recreation



Growing up, I learned early on that success does not always come easily, and for me, that has been shaped by having dyslexia. School has never been something I could take for granted. I've had to work harder than most people to understand material, stay organized, and keep up. But instead of letting that define me in a negative way, it has pushed me to become more determined, disciplined, and resilient. Maintaining a 4.22 GPA while managing a learning disability is something I take a lot of pride in, because it represents the effort behind the outcome, not just the number itself.

My experiences have also shaped my passion for helping others. Through completing over 100 hours of community service and working where I live, I have had the opportunity to connect with people from different backgrounds and better understand the importance of supporting a community. Whether it's helping residents, working as part of a team, or stepping into leadership roles, I've learned how important it is to be dependable and to show up for others. These experiences have strengthened my communication skills and reinforced my belief that even small actions can make a meaningful difference.

I plan to study political science on a pre-law track at the University of Colorado Boulder with the goal of becoming an attorney. I am drawn to law because it allows me to advocate for others and create real change. My own challenges have given me a deeper understanding of what it feels like to struggle and be overlooked, which motivates me to stand up for people who may not always have a voice.

In addition to academics and work, I have also been involved in athletics, including playing volleyball, which taught me discipline, teamwork, and leadership. Being part of a team showed me the value of accountability and pushing myself beyond my comfort zone, lessons that I carry with me in all areas of my life.

Overall, I would describe myself as hardworking, compassionate, and driven. I am someone who does not give up easily, even when things are difficult. Receiving this scholarship would not only support me financially but also allow me to continue pursuing my goals of higher education and a career in law. I am committed to using my education to make a positive impact and to continue growing both personally and professionally.

To whom it may concern,

I am honored to recommend [REDACTED], an exceptional young man whose character, work ethic, and leadership consistently stand out. Over the years, I've watched him serve others with a level of maturity and dedication far beyond his age. Whether he's assisting with community outreach, supporting Bible studies, or managing the technical setup for church services we attend together, [REDACTED] approaches every responsibility with reliability, humility, and genuine care.

He is the person everyone knows they can count on, when asked to do a task, and quietly handles the tasks others overlook without being asked. [REDACTED] has a natural ability to lead through service. He anticipates needs, solves problems without hesitation, and steps in wherever he's needed, never seeking recognition. His consistency and integrity make him a trusted presence in every environment he's part of. I have seen him do this in many areas of his life, at church, family functions, sporting events, birthday parties, and school type events.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is not just his willingness to help, but the heart behind it. He serves because he truly wants to make a difference and out of love. His attitude inspires those around him, and his example elevates the entire team. [REDACTED] is dependable, thoughtful, an intelligent and critical thinker, and remarkably self-motivated, qualities that make him truly stand apart from his peers.

I wholeheartedly recommend [REDACTED] for any opportunity he pursues. He is a one-of-a-kind leader with a servant's heart, and his dedication and character are unmatched.

Sincerely,

Andy Denlinger, Principal

Lautenbach Insurance Agency, LLC

Rising Star Personal Statement

Castle Rock is more than the place where I live. Castle Rock has shaped who I am, contributing significantly to my foundation. It has given me safety, security, community, respect, and opportunity. It is the definition of an American Dream town. Because of my experiences in Castle Rock, I want to create that same kind of community for others.

Due to my positive upbringing and the schools I've been able to attend, I've been given the ability to cultivate and refine skills with a focus I wouldn't have been able to have otherwise. Two strengths which I have been able to develop in particular are communication and leadership. First, I've always had a strong grasp of language, and I've had many good teachers to further refine this aptitude for communication. I better understood this strength in high school, which influenced my decision to join two clubs: Mock Trial and Speech and Debate. In both of these clubs, I had a chance to refine my skills in language. Second, I was given a chance to refine my leadership skills. I attended every meeting for both clubs, which gave me opportunities to mentor other students, run club events and fundraisers, and even become the vice president for Speech and Debate. Without these opportunities I had in Castle Rock, there's a good chance that my talents would've been nothing but squandered potential.

While benefiting from the community around me, I have tried to actively give back, to contribute what I can through community involvement and civic duty. Beyond active membership in my school's Mock Trial and Speech and Debate clubs, I was involved in the National Honor Society. This is a club whose mission is community involvement and outreach. Through NHS, I have given back to my community through volunteering, bake sales, fundraising for non-profits, blood drives, and mentoring

younger students. Outside of school and extracurriculars, I volunteer every week at my church, serving and teaching in kids' class, running the audio/visual system during music and messages, and setting up and cleaning up almost every week. Aside from community involvement, I also have some civic experience. Good citizenship is important in my household, so my parents have worked to make sure my siblings and I are well informed, as well as taking the whole family to polling stations during elections. In my day-to-day life, I try to be a good citizen, following the law and publicly supporting the police, other emergency services, and military when I have the opportunity. Castle Rock has given so much to me, and I try to do what I can to give back to my hometown and be a responsible citizen.

Castle Rock is a very special place to me, because not only is it my home, it's been a good home. The town is beautiful and the community has been very generous to me. Not one day in living here for 17 years can I recall ever feeling unsafe. I am confident in the knowledge that the local law enforcement is patrolling the town and keeping an eye out for anybody who would be a danger to the community. Because of the safety of the town, I have been able to take advantage of a myriad of opportunities to build relationships and improve myself. Because of the safety of the town, I have been able to build the values of civic responsibility, respect for others and a patriotic and optimistic view of the future. Sadly, not everyone gets to live in a place like Castle Rock, and benefit from the opportunities of living in a place like that, and I would like to change that.

Because of the community I grew up in, I understand what a good community looks like and what it can do for others. So, I want to bring the values I learned with me wherever I go. I have a passion for justice and fairness, and I intend to use that passion to guide my future path. In college, I will be studying criminal justice and law, so that I

can bring justice to those who do not have it. After college, I will be seeking a job as a prosecutor to restore and maintain justice as a part of the District Attorney's office. I wish to eventually pursue legislation to reform economics and justice systems to improve the opportunities and security of other communities and places. I feel called to use my passions and strengths for the good of those around me, to bring the safety and opportunities I grew up with in Castle Rock to the underserved. I want to spend my life forging and reinforcing communities with healthy and safe neighborhoods, like I got to grow up in.

Living in Castle Rock, I have experienced the values described in the Preamble to the Constitution: establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty. I know what that looks like because I lived it in Castle Rock! I want other Americans to experience those same American values in other American towns and cities. I want to give to others what Castle Rock means to me: safety, security, community, mutual respect, and opportunity. Our nation's founders and forefathers braved frontiers, dreaming about the life I have been able to live in Castle Rock. I want to share the American Dream that Castle Rock represents to wherever providence takes me.



March 3, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

We are honored to write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED], an outstanding high school student who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, initiative, and dedication through his involvement with the Town of Castle Rock's Teen Advisory Group. Over the past three years, [REDACTED] has served as a committed and engaged member, contributing more than 60 volunteer hours to our organization.

[REDACTED] is a natural leader who takes initiative and actively seeks ways to improve the programs and events he supports. He is highly aware of his surroundings, always willing to step in where help is needed, and consistently asks thoughtful, relevant questions that drive meaningful discussions. His ability to communicate effectively with both peers and adults sets him apart, making him a valuable asset in any collaborative setting.

In addition to his leadership skills, [REDACTED] has gained significant experience organizing and participating in projects that benefit the community. His enthusiasm, motivation, and ability to think ahead make him an exceptional volunteer and team member. He does not just wait for direction - he actively seeks out the next step, ensuring that tasks are completed efficiently and with purpose.

[REDACTED]'s dedication to service, combined with his strong leadership qualities and work ethic, make him an excellent candidate for any academic or extracurricular opportunity he pursues. We highly recommend him without reservation and are confident he will continue to make a positive impact wherever he goes.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Arissa Pacheco
Teen Advisory Group Coordinator
apacheco@CRgov.com

Rebecca Erickson
Former Teen Advisory Group Coordinator
rerickson@CRgov.com

Expectation vs. ██████████

What even is an expectation? Merriam-Webster defines it as “the act or state of expecting,” but I see it as my ██████████. Throughout my life, people have described me as different, louder, ultra expressive, and more pioneering than others. Now, I finally get to use that to my advantage. Walking into high school on my first day, I felt like a lost dog standing alone in the cafeteria, surrounded by new faces and unfamiliar opportunities. I was scared. Eventually, though, I realized I just needed to be myself and hold ambitious standards for what I wanted to achieve. I was expected to do well academically, and I did just that, finishing with a 4.34 GPA.

Looking back through my ██████████ lens, I realize grades are not the true intention behind school. School is about learning problem-solving, teamwork, resilience, and how to handle mistakes. Even as a perfectionist, I made one major mistake that I continue to reflect on. I chose to vape under what used to be the park in front of our school. In the moment, I convinced myself it was not a big deal and that I would not get caught. Later that day, I was called into Mrs. Gish’s office and asked if I had been vaping. Many people would have said no. I said yes. I explained that my parents were going through a divorce and that I was not making smart decisions.

That choice affected my mental health and how others viewed me. Most importantly my teachers; after my suspension I had to explain the poor choices I had made, I was surprised when they responded with the upmost kindness and support, they asked what I needed and how school could feel like a safe space. It also affected my college applications, requiring me to explain myself repeatedly. But instead of letting that mistake define me, I used it as motivation to grow.

Another expectation placed on me was to get involved; join clubs, contribute to the community, and stand out for scholarships like this one. So, I asked myself: how can I make a greater impact? I joined the student government, National Honor Society, Rotary Club, HOSA, and became a student ambassador. In my community, I served on the Castle Rock Teen Advisory Group and Teen Court. My most meaningful experience, however, was serving on the Make-A-Wish Youth Leadership Council. Through these endeavors, I had the honor of holding several leadership roles. In my leadership roles, I quickly learned that a title means nothing without action. During my time on the Make-A-Wish Youth Leadership Council, we were struggling to meet our fundraising goal of \$6000 for our team. Instead of assuming someone else would fix it, I stepped up and helped re-organize our outreach plan, I delegated clear responsibilities and personally reached out to local businesses for support. Unfortunately, I was met with more no’s and not every idea worked. That year I learned that leadership sometimes means adjusting when a plan does not go exactly how you want it to go. Most importantly, I learned how to manage my time effectively and balance these responsibilities with a full academic schedule and personal challenges at home, and that was not an easy task.

Through these experiences, I learned what it truly means to give back. I worked with critically ill children who were still full of life. They taught me that I take simple things for granted; waking up, going to school, driving my car, spending time with friends. Some people do not get that opportunity. I have learned that grit is not about avoiding mistakes or meeting every expectation perfectly. It is about taking responsibility, growing through discomfort, and continuing to hold yourself to a higher standard even when it would be easier not to. Every setback, every leadership challenge, and every difficult season have made a substantial impact on who I am as an individual. Through my extracurriculars and Colorado Early Colleges, I have learned that when life gives you lemons, you need to stop, reflect, and then go on the search to find more fruit until you have gathered enough to make fruit punch.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strong and enthusiastic support for [REDACTED] as a candidate for this scholarship. I have had the privilege of knowing [REDACTED] for over three years, and during that time I have witnessed firsthand her positive influence both within the classroom and throughout the community.

[REDACTED] is an active and dedicated student leader, serving as a member of the National Honor Society and as Vice President of the National Art Honor Society. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to service by volunteering at numerous school events, contributing meaningfully in academic settings, and giving her time to support an animal shelter. Over the course of her high school career, she has shown a genuine dedication to helping others in a variety of environments. Her exceptional work ethic is evident in her strong academic performance, as well as her willingness to challenge herself through multiple college-level courses, allowing her to get ahead in both high school and college credits.

Beyond her academic achievements, [REDACTED] stands out for her intelligence and creativity. She has a genuine passion for art and continuously finds innovative ways to incorporate it into her work, enriching both her own learning and the experience of those around her. Her ability to think creatively while maintaining academic excellence is truly impressive.

Equally important is [REDACTED]'s character. She is a kind, loyal, and compassionate individual who deeply values the people in her life. Her dedication to others is reflected in her daily actions and the meaningful relationships she builds. [REDACTED]'s aspiration to pursue a career in animal forensics speaks to both her ambition and her desire to make a difference. Given her determination and drive, I have no doubt that she will achieve great success and contribute positively to her field.

I wholeheartedly recommend [REDACTED] for this scholarship. She exemplifies the qualities of hard work, intelligence, creativity, and integrity, and I am confident she will continue to excel in all her future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Amelia Muldrow

Personal Statement

I would love to say I'm extroverted and someone people would usually gravitate towards. I have learned that I will not be liked by everyone but, that's something that has never been a goal, or even thought about in the moment. I chose to observe, listen, and speak up when it matters. I definitely won't be the loudest in the room, but when I share my opinions, they come from honesty and with intent.

I have always been the person to understand others even if it was difficult. I believe that everyone has a reason for their actions, whether they are good or bad. This is a mindset that has shaped me into the person I am today. I may not be perfect, and I don't want to be. However, I see myself being in the middle, learning to balance selflessness for others while also protecting my own well being.

My goal in life has always been to make others feel like they are someone in the world, making sure they feel like they matter. This goal guides my choices in my everyday life. There will most likely always be a reason why an individual does something. For me, it is to always understand. Whether I agree or not, no person should feel alone or misunderstood. This is something I stand by everyday.

Because of this mindset, I find myself stepping into roles where I can support my fellow peers and create spaces where others can feel seen. It's not something I planned, but something that came naturally to me over time. This made me realize these small things can be huge to someone else.

Every summer for the past eight years, I went to a camp filled with over one hundred campers every week. During my last two final years, I became an Animal Specialist in Training (ASIT). Before I became an ASIT, when I was a camper, I would look up to the older kids, they did so much to make this camp more fun and they took on so much responsibility, I almost passed up the chance before I aged out.

As an ASIT, I spent a lot of time with younger campers, to guide and support them through their camp experience. With this opportunity I learned to get better at my communication skills, and I started to come out of my shell. This was one of the first times I realized how much I could impact others.

That experience led me to seek other opportunities to make a difference. I started volunteering at an animal shelter combining my passion for animals with wanting to help. I volunteered at Castle Rock Art Fest and got more involved in the school programs such as NHS and NAHS.

One of my biggest accomplishments has been founding my school's talent show. Since 2021, I have worked each year to grow and improve this event. I wanted students to find themselves and their voice, giving those a chance to show people what they haven't shared before. Not only that but I wanted students, middle school and high school, to do something they think is fun and show off. Furthermore, to create a space where students had a space where they felt support.



27 May 2026

To whom it may concern:

It is my great pleasure to recommend [REDACTED] for your consideration. I have had the privilege of watching [REDACTED] grow into a thoughtful leader, a dedicated athlete, and a responsible student who consistently strives for excellence both in and out of the classroom.

[REDACTED] is a student who takes initiative and leads by example. At Castle View High School, he has taken on the challenge of Advanced Placement coursework while balancing his commitments as a captain of both the basketball and volleyball teams. His leadership on the court demonstrates his ability to inspire teammates, stay composed under pressure, and cultivate collaboration—skills that will serve him well in college and beyond.

Beyond athletics, [REDACTED] has proven himself a well-rounded leader and diligent worker. His experiences as a lifeguard, retail attendant at The UPS Store, and car wash attendant highlight his adaptability, work ethic, and commitment to responsibility. Whether making quick decisions in a safety-critical environment or communicating effectively with customers, [REDACTED] consistently demonstrates maturity, strong interpersonal skills, and a drive to contribute positively to his community.

Academically, [REDACTED] has earned recognition for his excellence, including the Academic Underclassmen of the Year Award and Excellence in Character Award. His achievements are not only a reflection of his intelligence and determination but also his integrity and commitment to doing the right thing. Additionally, his creativity shines through in his passion for graphic design, where he has been recognized for producing top-quality work.

What sets [REDACTED] apart is his ability to balance it all—academics, athletics, work, and creative pursuits—while maintaining humility, kindness, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning and leading. He is exactly the kind of student who will thrive in the college environment: hardworking, disciplined, and eager to make a meaningful impact.

I recommend [REDACTED] without reservation. He will bring leadership, resilience, and character to any campus community, and I am confident he will continue to excel in every challenge he takes on.

Sincerely,

Jeena Templeton

Jeena Templeton, EdD
Principal, Castle View High School
templeton@dcsdk12.org

When my church parted ways with the Boy Scouts, I joined a new troop sponsored by New Hope Church, expecting to find similar adventure and camaraderie. I never thought I'd be using the knots I learned in Scouts to tie rainbow key chains in support of the local LGBTQ Pride Parade and I realized that transferring troops was going to require more adjustments than I had anticipated. I asked the burning question, what is my "duty to God and my country and my community?" I gained clarity reflecting on the first time I was exposed to the LGBTQ community when my Aunt Brittani eloped with Megan under a pall of family disapproval. Initially, my relationship with them was distant. However, they remembered my birthdays with thoughtful gifts, cheered me on at my games, and set an example for me by choosing to support and unify. Over time, I learned from and followed their example along with that of my parents, teachers, church and scout leaders, coaches, and employers. Years later, when Aunt Brittani and Megan announced that they had chosen to name their baby after me, I responded with honor and gratitude.

My experience growing up in Castle Rock has provided many rich opportunities to build character and bridge gaps. When Castle Wood Canyon State Park flooded, destroying several bridges along the trail, I invited members of my family, faith, and new troop to build bridges, both literally and figuratively, completing my Eagle Scout project. While serving as student body president and priest quorum first assistant, I planned and executed activities with inclusivity in mind. As captain of my basketball and volleyball teams, I did my best to lead by example when I faced poor sportsmanship, coaching turnovers, and polarizing personalities. I received the Culture MVP and academic All-State Awards for my efforts. While working in Castle Rock at the local pools, carwash, and UPS store I learned the importance of serving others with a positive

attitude. As I sold fiber optics door to door I discovered that it is most important to seek to understand others needs, then share what service you have to offer. In my family and community, I strive to offer kindness and understanding in a world of judgment.

Differences are inherent, but do not need to be divisive. I am grateful to have been raised in a community where I have developed a strong self-conviction along with a deep appreciation of the value others have to offer.



Christopher Cauthen

School Counselor

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Castle Rock, Colorado 80109

720.439.4300 ext 21108

christopher.cauthen@coloradoearlycolleges.org

www.coloradoearlycolleges.org

March 23, 2026

Castle Rock Youth Commission,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for [REDACTED] as the next Rising Star Scholarship recipient! It is an honor to speak not only to her character and work ethic, but more importantly to the meaningful and lasting impact she has had on our community through her service and leadership.

[REDACTED] stands out as a student who consistently looks beyond herself. She demonstrates a genuine commitment to serving others, not for recognition, but through a deep sense of responsibility and care. Whether through organized service projects, volunteer work, or informal acts of kindness, she has made a noticeable difference in the lives of those around her. Her ability to identify needs within the community and take initiative to address them is both rare and admirable at her age.

[REDACTED] is a remarkable student and an even more remarkable human. She has worked a very challenging program at Colorado Early Colleges, simultaneously working on her High School diploma requirements and a college course load to complete her Associates of Sciences in hopes of one day becoming a Forensic Anthropologist.

All the while maintaining well above a 4.0 GPA, [REDACTED] has excelled in completing her certification through our Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. She has been selected and attended the very selective and prestigious National Youth Leadership Forum: Medicine & Health Care for Grades 9-12. The National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF): Medicine & Health Care gives high schoolers the chance to gain transformational medicine centered career knowledge.

If that weren't enough, [REDACTED] was nominated to attend The Congress of Future Medical Leaders. This is a three-day honors program for high-achieving high school and college students interested in medicine, hosted by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. [REDACTED] has a passion to serve and help people; she volunteers 8-12 hours per week in various capacities at Advent Health in Parker supporting patients and seeing further connection and guidance to her dream.

[REDACTED]'s record of service is both extensive and impactful. She has participated in two mission trips to Honduras, where she contributed her time and energy to support communities in need. Locally, she volunteers at the hospital twice a week, demonstrating remarkable consistency and compassion in a demanding environment. Her dedication and work ethic in this role led to her being nominated by a coworker for a BEE (Being Exceptional Everyday) Award, an award that recognizes non-nursing healthcare staff—such as nursing assistants, technicians, and housekeepers—who provide extraordinary care and support to patients, families, and nurses. A recognition that speaks to the respect she has earned from professionals in the field.

In addition, [REDACTED] has invested deeply in mentoring and leadership within her peer community. She has served as a youth leader for middle school girls, providing guidance, encouragement, and a positive role model. She is also an active member of the youth worship team and co-runs a Christian club at school, helping to build a sense of community and belonging among her peers.

Her leadership extends into her academic environment as well. As a member of the leadership committee for the National Honor Society chapter at her school, she has played a key role in organizing and executing service initiatives.

Notably, she helped run a successful book drive aimed at expanding the school's library, demonstrating both initiative and the ability to collaborate effectively with others to achieve meaningful goals.

What makes her contributions especially impactful is the way she approaches service—with empathy, consistency, and leadership. She does not simply participate; she elevates those around her. She encourages peers to get involved, models accountability, and brings a positive, solutions-focused mindset to every situation. Her presence has helped foster a stronger sense of connection and support within our community.

In addition to her service [REDACTED] demonstrates maturity, integrity, and a strong sense of purpose. She understands that leadership is not about position, but about action and influence. Her ability to balance academic responsibilities while remaining deeply engaged in service reflects both discipline and passion.

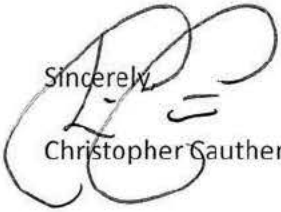
[REDACTED]'s impact makes our school and community stronger every day. She leaves a lasting impression not only through what she does, but through how she makes others feel—valued, supported, and inspired to contribute, she truly is a "Rising Star!!!"

I recommend her without reservation. I am confident she will continue to be a force for good, bringing the same level of commitment, compassion, and leadership to any environment she joins.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gauthen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Gauthen". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rising Star Scholarship Personal Statement

Tell us who you are. Include your strengths, goals and how you plan to achieve those goals. Share your contributions to the community, the positive impact of the project and what Castle Rock means to you.

The minute I picked up the bone, I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my life. For most of my high school career, I had been dead set on pursuing medicine and becoming a cardiovascular surgeon. Then one day, I stumbled upon a book series that featured a forensic anthropologist, and my curiosity was sparked. I enrolled in an introduction to forensic anthropology class, and on the first day, we began exploring the human skeleton. In the next class, the instructor had us practice learning the names and bony landmarks of each individual bone. When I picked up the femur and began to examine it, I knew instantly—this is what I want to do. I want to spend my life analyzing and understanding the human skeleton and make a positive and lasting impact on the world around me.

To make a positive impact on our world, I have spent over three hundred hours volunteering in various capacities in Castle Rock, Douglas County, and the world. Castle Rock is extremely important to me because my mom was raised here, my grandfather spent his career as a dentist here and my grandmother was the first female mayor of Castle Rock. One of the impacts on this community that I am most proud of is starting a club at my school where Christians come together to learn, socialize and create community within our school community. I started this club last semester, with my best friend. We have grown from two to more than twenty active attendees. We have held monthly hangouts focused on creating community. I believe that through our commitment and strong leadership we have truly cultivated a group that is beginning to reflect everything we could have wanted for it. Members are beginning to openly share with one another, and our membership has more than tripled since the group began. The rate at which this group has grown in a few short months shows how significantly people seek connection with others. This group, while initially intended to bring like-minded people together, has drawn from many different areas of our student body and given them a place to connect.

While having a career and being able to support myself is an important goal in my life, I also greatly value giving back and making an impact through volunteering. My favorite service activity has been serving as a youth group leader for my church. In this position, I was given the chance to partner with an adult leader to mentor and support a group of middle school students. Being a youth leader has taught me how to come out of my shell and form meaningful bonds with others, even when I doubt myself. It has helped me to grow and learn in ways that would not have been possible without this opportunity. Having older peers as leaders also helped the students that we were leading. It gave them

someone to trust, who knew what they were facing, and someone who would be on their side when times became tough. Many youth leaders make a significant impact in their students' lives and are likewise changed by the experience. I have seen that in my life, and I have seen it in some of my previous students' lives. I try and encourage people to become youth leaders because I know it can make a difference for these students and grow the leaders themselves.

In addition, I volunteer at AdventHealth Parker 8-12 hours a week. At first, I just volunteered in the PACU, but now I serve at the surgical reception desk and the Women and Babies welcome desk. When I first started volunteering in the PACU over a year and a half ago, for the first few months, I didn't feel like I belonged. I felt like my presence in the PACU brought more harm than good. Every time I was there, I worried I would get in the way of the nurses and slow down their work. I started to only do things when they were asked of me, so that I would never do something unwanted. Eventually, I began to realize that the things I could most help with were small, but meaningful. If I grabbed a patient's belongings or cleaned that one bed, it gave the CNA a chance to sit down and breathe, or to take a patient to their room without worrying over how much there was to get done when they came back. The more I did things without being asked, the more I saw the weight taken, a little bit at a time, from the CNA's shoulders, and I saw the gratitude reflected in the nurses' eyes. I gained a sense of accomplishment and knowledge that my presence does matter. I learned to see the needs around me and meet them without being asked. I became a part of something bigger than myself and found my place where I initially thought I didn't belong.

At this time in my life, I do not feel called to focus on a grand and glorious project or position/ title; rather, I choose to make a smaller, consistent impact everyday on the lives of those around me. I want to prioritize being able to show up and support the people around me. I am looking forward to what this next year will bring me and I am hoping that if I win this scholarship it will not only help my to pursue my future career goals, but it will also help to give me the time and freedom to step up and help to serve the next community that I will be a part of.

Juliette Barbin
French Teacher
Castle View High School
jbarbin@dcsdk12.org

Admissions Committee,

It is my great honor to write this letter of recommendation for [REDACTED], one of the most accomplished and inspiring students I have had the privilege to teach in my career. I have known [REDACTED] for the past two years as her French teacher at Castle View High School, where I have witnessed her extraordinary growth not only as a student of language, but also as a leader, scholar, and person of remarkable character.

[REDACTED]'s story is both unique and inspiring. She arrived in the United States from Colombia at the age of fifteen without knowing English, and yet within just a few years she mastered the language with fluency and confidence. What is most impressive, however, is that [REDACTED] then turned her determination and intellectual curiosity toward French, a third language, and achieved a level of proficiency that exceeded all expectations. Her success is a testament to her perseverance, her natural linguistic ability, and her remarkable work ethic.

In her French studies, [REDACTED] consistently demonstrated mastery and a deep engagement with the language. She excelled in her coursework, contributing thoughtful insights and demonstrating a nuanced understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and cultural contexts. This achievement culminated in her outstanding performance on the AP French Exam, where she earned an Honors rating—an accomplishment that only the most dedicated and skilled language students achieve. Few students undertake the challenge of mastering three languages, and even fewer reach such a high level of proficiency in such a short time.

Beyond her classroom success, [REDACTED] has taken her love for French into leadership roles. As the President of the National French Honor Society at Castle View High School, she has been a driving force in building enthusiasm for French language and culture among her peers.

[REDACTED] is not only an exceptional language learner but also an extraordinary young woman whose achievements speak to her resilience, talent, and drive. She has earned my highest respect and admiration, and I am confident she will bring the same dedication and excellence to her college studies and beyond. I wholeheartedly recommend her for admission and scholarship consideration. She will no doubt contribute richly to your academic community and continue to serve as an example of what can be achieved through determination and passion.

Sincerely,



Juliette Barbin
French Teacher
Castle View High School

██████████
Castle Rock, CO

31 March 2026

Who am I? I am everything and nothing - a reminder of humility, but also of deep appreciation for the roles that shape me. I am a considerate daughter, a caring sister, a thoughtful friend, a curious student, a joyful peer, and an empathetic stranger. I am a proud Colombian, who now calls the United States home.

Four years ago I left behind my country, my family, my friends, and my deeply adored dad. I embarked on the biggest challenge in my life: immigrating to the United States. Arriving in a completely different country, with a language I did not speak, brought a frustration, depression and anxiety that made me feel like I had lost myself. The situation and feelings I was experiencing made me touch bottom, and only until I was there, I realized I had a new opportunity to start over. So I began a journey of self-improvement and discovery. My perspective widened, and for the first time I became fully aware of the realities of life, and of my desire to be useful, to serve, and to have a positive impact on others. To turn this into action I started volunteering in the ELD program at Castle Rock Middle School. Here, throughout my high school years, I've helped organize events for immigrant families to receive support with school registration and all other processes needed for their children to access an education. At my own high school, I created a community club to help Hispanic students earn the community service hours needed to graduate. I've also tutored students, both through the National Honor Society and independently, in different subjects, helping them feel more confident and supported in school. On the other hand, I discovered my love for languages and decided to start learning French and join the French Honor Society, where I now serve as a President. This role has allowed me to promote bilingualism, celebrate culture, and strengthen the sense of community among students.

At the same time, I uncovered my passion for engineering. I fell in love with the way it blends creativity, innovation, problem solving, and the possibility of building something that serves others. That realization

shaped my academic path and strengthened my desire to pursue a degree in civil engineering, a field where I can turn ideas into structures that support communities like the one that supported me.

All my efforts have been with the intention to open myself to the world, cultivate my leadership and personality, and genuinely help others. Witnessing people feeling more confident and supported, families relieved and grateful, and my community growing stronger fills my heart and makes every effort worth it.

After my experiences as an immigrant, I've learned countless lessons that made me a resilient, empathetic, determined, and mature person. Today, I dream big and believe wholeheartedly that genuine intentions and hard work can take me anywhere. My biggest goal at the moment, the one I've worked tirelessly toward for the past four years, is to become the first one in my family to graduate from a college in the United States. Achieving this will give me the resources, tools, and reach to one day pay forward all the blessings, kindness, and opportunities I've been granted.

Castle Rock, the city I live in now, means more to me than just a place. It is where I learned who I am, where I discovered my voice, and where I found a purpose bigger than myself. It is the community that shaped my values and inspired me to be better and lead with compassion, courage, and pride. This is the place that gave me peace, freedom, and opportunity to pursue my dreams, a gift for which I will remain grateful forever.

In conclusion, life has taught me that in a world with over 8 billion inhabitants, I may be no one, yet I can also become anyone I choose. So now I strive to be someone who loves, who cares, who refuses to give up and who has an immense desire to grow, to learn, and to uplift others as I rise.

March 31, 2026

Town of Castle Rock Scholarship

Letter of Recommendation for [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend [REDACTED], a senior and Eagle Scout Candidate, in support of his application for the Town of Castle Rock Scholarship. I have known [REDACTED] since 2019 and have had the privilege of watching him grow into a respectful, capable, and community-minded young man.

[REDACTED] has been actively involved in Scouting for the past 12 years here in Castle Rock, where he has grown up, developing perseverance, responsibility, and integrity. As an Eagle Scout Candidate, he consistently demonstrates maturity and accountability. [REDACTED] is a natural leader who is equally comfortable taking initiative when needed or supporting others as part of a team, reflecting his humility and adaptability.

[REDACTED]'s commitment to the community is evident through his extensive volunteer service throughout the Town of Castle Rock. His work includes, but is not limited to, the building and installation of Colorado Blue Bird Boxes and Baffles throughout the town's park system, supporting environmental stewardship and conservation efforts. He has also assisted with park benches and trail work at Rock Park, as well as the construction of log benches at Memmen Ridge Open Space and Ridgeline Open Space, working alongside fellow scouts and community partners on projects that will benefit residents for years to come.

In addition, [REDACTED] has volunteered at CALF Ranch (Colorado Agriculture Leadership Foundation) in Castle Rock in assisting and completing various projects, contributing to community-based agricultural efforts. Most recently, he coordinated and completed his Eagle Scout Project in building Animal Pens with Elizabeth Hoffner, Director of Operations, demonstrating responsibility, compassion, attention to detail, and a strong work ethic.

Beyond his service accomplishments, [REDACTED] is kind, respectful, humble, and encouraging. He leads by example and consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and genuine consideration for others, leaving a lasting impression on both peers and adults.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to be part of [REDACTED]'s journey. I am confident he will continue to make meaningful contributions to his community and excel in his future endeavors. I wholeheartedly recommend [REDACTED] for the Town of Castle Rock Scholarship.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Lorri Daniel-Bozzer

Lorri Daniel-Bozzer

Eagle Mentor/Outdoor Coordinator

Castle Rock Troop 780

Ph: (720) 245-3797

Rising Star Scholarship

[REDACTED]

March 30, 2026

Castle Rock Rising Star Scholarship

Personal Statement

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a high school senior who has spent most of my life growing up in Castle Rock. Living here for over three-quarters of my life has shaped me into the person I am today. Castle Rock isn't just where I live—it's where I've learned important values like hard work, responsibility, and the importance of helping others. Through my experiences in school, my community, and especially in Boy Scouts, I've worked to become someone who contributes positively and takes pride in doing the right thing.

One of the biggest influences in my life has been my time in Boy Scouts. Scouting has taught me leadership, discipline, and the importance of service. I've participated in a variety of community service projects, including trail cleanups, park improvement efforts, and helping at local events. These experiences showed me how important it is to give back to the community that supports you. They also helped me build teamwork skills and taught me that real leadership comes from serving others, not just leading them.

Some of my greatest strengths are my strong work ethic, reliability, and determination. When I commit to something, I follow through. Whether it's completing a project, helping someone out, or working toward a goal, I take pride in doing my best. I'm not afraid of hard work, and I understand that success comes from consistency and effort over time.

After graduating, my goal is to attend Electrical Lineman College in Meridian, Idaho, in November 2026. I am interested in becoming a lineman because it's a career that requires both physical and technical skills, while also providing an essential service to communities. I want to be part of something that people rely on every day. To reach this goal, I plan to continue preparing myself by staying focused, working hard, and building the skills I'll need to succeed in the program and beyond.

I also want my future career to have a positive impact. As a lineman, I'll have the opportunity to help restore power during emergencies and support communities when they need it most. That responsibility means a lot to me, and it's one of the reasons I'm drawn to this path. No matter where my career takes me, I plan to carry the values I've learned in Castle Rock with me and continue finding ways to give back.

In conclusion, Castle Rock has played a huge role in shaping who I am. It has given me opportunities to grow, serve, and build strong connections. From my experiences in Boy Scouts to my goals for the future, I am committed to working hard and making a difference. This scholarship would help me take the next step toward my career while continuing to represent the values of my community. I am proud to call Castle Rock home, and I look forward to giving back to the kind of community that has given so much to me.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing in very strong support of [REDACTED] application for your scholarship. His extensive leadership experience, commitment to serving others, and strong academic achievements make him an outstanding candidate and a young man who reflects the values of this community. As a Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, I have had the privilege of working with many individuals in both enlisted and officer roles, and [REDACTED] exemplifies the qualities of integrity, leadership, and service that lead to long-term success.

[REDACTED]'s leadership experience is particularly noteworthy. As a Captain in the Douglas County High School Marching Band, he led rehearsals, coordinated logistics, and mentored younger students, demonstrating responsibility, organization, and the ability to lead peers effectively. As Co-Captain of the varsity rock climbing team, he organized practices, communicated with school administrators, and helped guide his team to state competition. These roles required accountability, adaptability, and the ability to lead by example under pressure.

His selection as a delegate to Boys State further highlights his dedication to civic engagement and leadership. During this intensive program, he actively participated in legislative processes, chaired a veteran committee, and sponsored initiatives focused on supporting veterans. These experiences reflect a strong understanding of civic responsibility and a desire to contribute meaningfully to society.

[REDACTED] has also demonstrated a consistent commitment to service within his community. Through volunteer work at food banks, blood drives, and other local organizations, he has shown a genuine desire to uplift others. His role as a volunteer and lector at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church speaks to his confidence, integrity, and ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences. Additionally, his work as a counselor at an outdoor education camp reflects his responsibility and care for the well-being and education of younger students.

Academically, [REDACTED] has challenged himself through rigorous coursework, including AP and IB classes as well as advanced mathematics courses at a community college. His ability to balance a demanding academic schedule with extracurricular leadership and service commitments demonstrates discipline, resilience, and excellent time management, qualities I am sure will serve him well in his future pursuits.

In summary, [REDACTED] is a dedicated, driven, and community-minded individual who embodies the values of leadership, service, and excellence. I am confident he will continue to make meaningful contributions to the Castle Rock community and beyond. I offer my strongest recommendation for his selection as a scholarship recipient.

Sincerely,

Major Len Brokenshire

United States Airforce

Over the past four years as a student at Douglas County High School, I've focused on rigorous academics and community involvement. My post-graduation plans are to attend The University of Alabama where I will continue to prioritize these aspects.

My commitment to academics is reflected through my success with an extensive course load of AP, IB, and concurrent enrollment classes. These courses, ranging from AP US History to Calculus III, have instilled a deep work ethic and drive, enabling me to be successful in my future academic pursuits. I intend to double major in Mathematics and Economics in preparation for a career in law and public service.

Service and responsibility have been guiding principles in my life, shaped in large part by the example of my grandfather, whose lifelong dedication to the military, veterans, and community left a lasting impression. I have carried these values into volunteer work with local food pantries, blood drives, and stone canyon outdoor education, as well as leadership roles where I have mentored and uplifted others. I plan to continue my commitment to these values at The University of Alabama by participating in Army ROTC, commissioning as an officer and serving my country. I have been awarded a national Army ROTC Scholarship, a further testament to my curricular and extra-curricular accomplishments. Following my military service, I aim to attend law school and pursue a career in corporate law, using my education and experiences to uphold the principles of integrity, justice, and service in both my profession and my community.

The Rising Star Scholarship will help me as I pursue my academic goals and career path, allowing me to make significant contributions to my communities, both local and national.



3954 Trail Boss Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80104
www.rensec.org

March 26, 2026

Dear Rising Star Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to nominate our shining star, [REDACTED], for the Town of Castle Rock Rising Star Scholarship. As a senior at Renaissance Secondary School, [REDACTED] fully embraces our school mantra, “We are Crew, not passengers,” and has made a lasting and meaningful impact on both our school and community through her leadership, service, and compassion for others.

[REDACTED]’s commitment to service is truly exceptional. She has completed 527 service hours, shattering our school’s graduation requirement of 40 hours. Her service reflects a genuine desire to positively impact others. She has served as a junior counselor at Camp Courage supporting children and families affected by cancer, mentored young soccer players in a youth soccer program, and put in long hours at the Leadville 100 aid station. Within the National Ski Patrol, [REDACTED] has volunteered for the past six years where she progressed from an intern to an OEC student to a Certified Young Adult Patroller this year. She demonstrates strong technical skill, composure under pressure, and compassionate patient care. She has also given back to the program by assisting with a recent Outdoor Emergency Care course.

[REDACTED]’s senior capstone project, *Hope on the Slopes*, is an incredible accomplishment that was inspired by her family’s experience with cancer. [REDACTED] created a retreat designed to provide an opportunity for individuals impacted by critical illness to find joy, connection, and escape in the mountains. Despite facing numerous challenges, initial setbacks, and a mild Colorado winter with minimal snow, [REDACTED] demonstrated amazing perseverance and resourcefulness. She successfully organized and launched a three-day trip to Cuchara for several peers, coordinating lodging, meals, volunteers, and a full operational plan at the mountain, including Base Camp, free lift passes, and discounted equipment rentals. Participants enjoyed two full days of skiing and an unforgettable neon-themed night under the lights. [REDACTED] demonstrated her Patrol Skills performing a full sled rescue of one of her teachers, who helped her film footage for her Capstone documentary. *Hope on the Slopes* exemplifies [REDACTED]’s

We are crew, not passengers. Students and teachers are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others.

Kurt Hahn

ability to turn empathy into meaningful action, creating a lasting, positive impact on the lives of others.

In addition to her Capstone, [REDACTED] is a key leader within our school community. She serves as the Student Leadership President where she is the chair for spirit and school activities committees. She brings the 'Power of Blue' to the senior class and school-wide spirit to Homecoming, Raptor Roars, and Wish Week as students battle for the coveted Raptor Oar and Spirit Cup. [REDACTED] has also taken the lead in planning the senior voyage to Ridgway and Ouray this spring. [REDACTED] is the kind of person you can always count on and if something needs to get accomplished, you're thankful to have her on your team.

[REDACTED] has balanced all of these responsibilities while maintaining outstanding academic performance. [REDACTED] has earned a 3.85 GPA while taking on rigorous coursework at both Renaissance and Arapahoe Community College, along with leadership roles and extensive service. She is a focused and curious learner, and her 93 ASVAB score, the highest at Renaissance this year, highlights her strong academic ability. She considered the Air Force Academy; however, she has committed to the Colorado School of Mines to study Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering in the fall. She strives to become an emergency medicine physician.

[REDACTED] represents the very best of Castle Rock. She will forever be a star from our crew at Renaissance. Her compassion, initiative, and commitment to improving the lives of others make her truly deserving of the Rising Star Scholarship. I am confident she will continue to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Lavold

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Renaissance Secondary School

Class of 2026

Personal Statement

Hiking just to summit the peak means you never stop to appreciate the view. Similarly, some people are so focused and dedicated to reaching their goals, they rarely stop and admire the journey. My entire high school career, I have been guilty of this, and I wish I would have stopped occasionally to soak in the moment and truly appreciate my own accomplishments. Looking back, my life has felt like it's been moving at 100 miles per hour—always rushing from one goal to the next. I was so focused on checking off achievements from a never ending list that I didn't stop to think about what I'd actually accomplished or how I was growing. Whether it was coaching kids in soccer, volunteering on the ski patrol, or supporting families affected by cancer, I was so caught up in the climb that I missed out on appreciating the view, the difference I was making, and the person I was becoming.

I'm someone who's driven by dedication, service, leadership, and commitment. These qualities have shaped how I handle challenges and opportunities. For example, coaching youth soccer taught me a lot about patience and teamwork. It wasn't just about teaching the game, but helping kids believe in themselves and work together. Being a junior camp counselor at Camp Courage was another important experience. Supporting kids and their families dealing with cancer pushed me to be compassionate and steady, even when things became difficult. These roles showed me that true leadership means being there for others, especially during challenging times.

I've been lucky to serve my community in different ways. On the Cuchara Ski Patrol, I help skiers and snowboarders by providing emergency first aid, and ensuring guest safety, which demands quick thinking, responsibility, and calm under pressure. Coaching youth soccer gave me a chance to teach teamwork and leadership to kids, creating a positive space for them to grow. For my senior capstone project, Hope on the Slopes, I organized a free ski trip for high school students at my school facing cancer, to give them a brief reprieve from the struggles they face and provide them with the opportunity to enjoy winter recreation. These experiences have taught me a lot about kindness, connection, and the power of helping others.

My career goals include going to Colorado School of Mines for Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering, then onto medical school at CU Anschutz, to eventually become an emergency medicine doctor. Working on the ski patrol, where I administer emergency first aid, has inspired me to pursue this path. I want to be the person who can step in during a crisis and transform chaos into a controlled situation with a positive outcome. Personal goals of mine include furthering and expanding my program, Hope on the Slopes, by partnering with ski areas and passes to keep giving students who have dealt with

cancer, specifically in Castle Rock, the chance to enjoy winter sports. I believe in giving back and building something lasting for my community.

Taking a moment to slow down and look back has helped me see the impact I've made—not just the goals I've reached, but the people I've helped and the lessons I've learned. This way of thinking will help me balance my future goals with kindness and awareness. Like hiking, reaching the summit is important, but the views and experiences along the way matter just as much. Appreciating the journey has made me more committed to serving others and growing as a person.

I'm committed to making a real difference through dedication, service, and leadership. As I chase my goals, I'll remember to slow down and appreciate the journey, valuing the people I meet and the moments I share. Just like a hiker who stops to take in the view, I want to carry that mindset with me—knowing the path itself is as meaningful as where it leads.