

Caedryn Carter

Grade 12

Thomas B. Doherty High School

What Drives Me

Family and community drive me. Losing my home to the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012 made it critical to rediscover my passions and drive through personal development and recovery from the trauma. In a sense, this tragedy drives me towards the positive. My family was served by Colorado Springs and I knew it was my duty to return that effort for those in need. For the past eight years, I have been very active in serving and preparing meals at the Marian House and Colorado Springs Rescue Mission. Incorporating kindness into one's day can shape their future choices, and I am driven to spread that concept throughout my community. I am a Youth Liaison for the Commission on Aging on Colorado Springs City Council. This position lets me offer a voice to those in the community who have lost that ability to speak up for themselves. A big part of my position is being open to others opinions and needs in order to provide to those whose ideas are overlooked. My grandparents, who suffer from isolation, inspired this position, as I hope to provide an outlet for their generation, as well as future generations to come. I am also a member of P.A.C.K. (Promoting Acts of Charitable Kindness). We align with Make-A-Wish and other meaningful events throughout the year. Interacting with various children and families who power through their own struggle further drives my ambition to contribute a helping hand. Because of my involvement in the community, my life experiences are enriched while surrounding myself with kind, goal-oriented friends and positive influences. I have been a pathfinder and have learned from others in order to excel in leadership positions. Teamwork and leadership have been dominant factors driving my character, as I have had to learn how to work actively with those around me. Leadership provides me the ability to make decisions for myself and not fall into the traps that come with being a follower; however, by still maintaining relationships with my peers, they know that they can rely on my drive and assistance. I plan to maintain the efforts of aiding my community, as I am inspired by the kindness of these citizens who make it easy to continue my passionate journey into becoming someone who could encourage efforts at a larger scale. My aspiration to become an environmental scientist is driven by the need to continue to make positive change. In order to do so, rigorous study and tenacious effort will dictate my opportunities for field studies and potential grants. I am driven to lead group efforts in research while displaying the character necessary for meaningful, ethical change and treatment of various populations. I am driven by the urgency of a healthier planet and the duty to create a voice for those who hope to aid in the process as well.