

Kylie Swanton 12 Skyview High School Montana

### What Drives You?

I feel driven by a strong desire to personally grow through life experiences. I enjoy keeping busy with extracurricular activities and hobbies, as well as volunteering to make a difference in my community. I learned at a young age that I love to try new things. I consider myself an innately competitive person, so I've always wanted to "give it my all" in order to excel to the best of my ability. My independent drive has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone given that desire to improve. I have felt fortunate to have pursued many new things while gaining skill in the process. Sadly, I believe that many teenagers miss out on many growth opportunities because they are afraid of failure or lack the desire to put in the hard work during the process.

Following the mandatory school closure during the covid pandemic, I decided to further my passion for art and desire to create my own business. After years of making signs and working on my self-taught calligraphy script, *Kylie's Calligraphy* was born. As a young entrepreneur, it has been difficult to balance my business and school obligations, but I have learned how to effectively manage a business, engage with customers, work on time management, and overcome some of my fears throughout the process. In April of 2022, I entered a local business competition called "The Hive." During that competition, other young entrepreneurs and I pitched our businesses to a panel of local judges. I was nervous to go on stage and present in front of a large audience because public speaking was one of my greatest fears. However, I was able to make my way through the presentation and I now feel as if I can deliver a speech without many nerves at all. Even though I was afraid at the time, perseverance helped me overcome my fear and earn a second place prize.

Through my athletic endeavors, I have been able to learn the value of leadership, communication, teamwork, and relationship building. I strongly believe that the best way to have a meaningful high school experience is to engage in team sports. Despite my soccer successes, I debated joining the track team. Throughout each season of competition, I was able to consistently improve by persevering through difficult workouts. During those moments of difficulty, discomfort, and fatigue, I was continually driven by my strong desire to improve and grow in character.

Academically, I am excited to gain more experience and knowledge while studying business marketing, advertising, and entrepreneurship at Grand Canyon University this Fall while being enrolled in the Honors College. I'm certain that my drive to thrive and gain further business experience will help me persevere for the remainder of my life. I am excited to see what my future holds beyond high school given my desire to make an impact and do what I love. Thank you for this incredible scholarship opportunity and your consideration.