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12<sup>th</sup> Grade

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Idaho

### What Drives Me

Growing up in Idaho, the outdoors has always played an important role in my life. Some of my earliest and most meaningful memories come from fishing with my papa. From a very young age, I remember sitting beside him on the water, learning how to cast a line, tie hooks, and think through a plan for the catch. Those experiences taught me much more than how to fish. He showed me patience, respect for nature, and how to appreciate quiet moments. Most importantly, that time together built a bond and set of values that continue to guide me today.

I have also spent many days hunting and fishing with my older brother. These moments strengthened my connection to the outdoors while teaching me lessons about focus, preparation, and persistence. In both hunting and fishing, success is never guaranteed. Things often change, requiring patience and the ability to adjust. Through these experiences, I learned to value effort, stay adaptable, and remain determined even when outcomes are uncertain. Beyond the skills themselves, these traditions deepened my appreciation for family, discipline, and Idaho's natural beauty.

While the outdoors has shaped much of who I am, my experiences in high school have also played a major role in what drives me. As a high school athlete competing in baseball, I have learned the importance of commitment, teamwork, and accountability. Baseball requires constant practice, mental focus, and resilience. It has taught me how to manage pressure, work toward long-term goals, and push myself to improve. These lessons extend far beyond the field and influence how I approach challenges in all areas of my life.

In addition to athletics, I have had the opportunity to work as a photojournalist for my school. This experience has given me a different perspective on my community and the world around me. Through photography, I have learned to observe details, capture meaningful moments, and tell stories through images. It has strengthened my creativity, responsibility, and ability to connect with others. Balancing academics, athletics, and photojournalism has required strong time management and dedication, further reinforcing my work ethic.

What ultimately drives me is the desire to build a future that combines my passion for the outdoors with a meaningful and practical career. I plan to pursue a degree in business with the long-term goal of opening a fish hatchery in Idaho. This goal reflects both my personal interests and my commitment to contributing to my state. Fish hatcheries play an important role in supporting fisheries, ecosystems, and food resources. I want to build a responsible and sustainable business that benefits both communities and the environment.

Idaho is more than where I live — it is my home. The experiences I have had here, both outdoors and in school, have shaped my character, values, and ambitions. What drives me is the influence of my family, the discipline I have gained through athletics, the perspective developed through photojournalism, and my determination to create a meaningful future.

This scholarship would help me take an important step toward achieving those goals. I am enrolled and will be attending Boise State University in the Fall of 2026.