

## PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: Whitney Messer

Address: 102 Powell Drive

City: Barbourville State: KY Zip: 40906

Date of Birth: 08/09/00

High School: Barbourville High School

Currently, I am a high school: ☐ Freshman ☒ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Parent Phone #: 606-622-7781

Applicant Email: whitneymesser77@gmail.com

Parent/Guardian's Email: timothy.messer@knox.kyschools.us

## PART II - APPLICANT ESSAY

- Please explain why you feel as though you deserve to be awarded a Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant
- Essay must be typed and double spaced
- Essay should be no more than two pages

## PART III - PERFORMANCE RECORD

- Please provide your performance record for at least the last two years
- Record should include scores in addition final results
- Performance Record must be typed

## PART IV - PARENT OR GUARDIAN NARRATIVE

- Please provide a short narrative why applicant deserves to be awarded a Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant
- Financial need is an important factor in determining recipients, thus include financial need in narrative

## SUBMISSION

Return Application by mail with Part II, III and IV to:

Kentucky Golf Foundation  
Attention: Gay Brewer, Jr. Grant  
1116 Elmore Just Drive  
Louisville, Kentucky 40245

OR by email to:

Connie Saner  
[csaner@kygolf.org](mailto:csaner@kygolf.org)

Applications must be received at Golf House Kentucky  
by 4 pm on May 5, 2017

## Part II

If I am fortunate enough to receive the Gay Brewer Scholarship, I will use the money to help fund my summer and fall golf schedule. Hopefully an opportunity like this would allow me to fulfill my dream of playing college golf at a major university. Few kids can achieve the dream of playing Division I golf without the exposure and recognition gained by playing high level tournaments. Without a grant my opportunity to play is very limited. In addition this money will also remove some of the financial hardship that my parents encounter while trying to allow myself and my siblings the opportunity to play this game at a higher level.

Last year I was fortunate enough to have a few Division I coaches come and watch me play, but due to financial constraints, I have not been able to play tournament golf since last fall. Although I have missed playing this spring due to lack of funds, I continue to practice every day. Both of my parents work two jobs. My dad is a teacher, painter, bus driver, and umpire and my mom is a teacher's aide during the day and cleans a medical office in the evenings. With three kids playing tournament golf, it is very difficult to come up with tournament funds. Entry fees for two players on the bigger tours are in excess of \$400. When you factor in a hotel, gas, and a practice round you are looking at more than \$700 for a weekend of golf. I also have a younger brother that used to play summer golf, but with the cost of entry fees for my sister and me, he has not been able to play.

Golf has given me many opportunities, but without help I cannot reach my goals. Living in a rural area makes it very difficult to compete with the majority of players. . All of my instruction and 98% of tournaments require car rides in excess of one hour which adds even more to our cost. Out of the top player rankings in the state, I am at the bottom of junior golf scoreboard in events played. Without the help of this grant, I can see little opportunity of playing enough events to get recruited. If selected as the recipient of this grant, I promise to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities it

presents. I will use the grant to offset some of the costs of travel, practice, and entry to high level events.

**Whitney Messer Barbourville High School Class of 2019**

**14 Southeast Kentucky Junior Tour wins-**

**2013 Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship Runner Up 12 and Under**

**2016 (15 Years Old)**

**AJGA Preview at Innisbrook 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall- 82-77**

**2016 KHSAA Region 9 Tournament 3<sup>rd</sup> Place -77**

**2016 Kentucky Junior Amateur 80-78**

**2016- Named to 5 Member Region 9 KYGCA All Region Team**

**2015 Summer (14 Years Old)**

<https://kyjrgolf.bluegolf.com/bluegolf/kyjrgolf15/event/kyjrgolf1530/contest/49/profile/wmesser5/stat.htm?>

**78.3 Overall Scoring Average (5,960 average yardage played)**

**Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship 5916 Yards**

**(46 Participants) 13<sup>th</sup> overall---5<sup>th</sup> 13-15 year old- 78-76---2<sup>nd</sup> Class of 2019**

**Junior PGA Championship Qualifier 6004 Yards**

**(40 Participants) 18<sup>th</sup> Overall ---4<sup>th</sup> 13-15 year old Girls----2<sup>nd</sup> Class of 2019**

**2015 High School**

**Member of Kentucky All A state Championship Team**

**Overall Individual Runner Up All A Region 13 Score 76**

**Overall Individual Runner Up Kentucky All A State Championship (88 Participants) Score 78 5712 yards**

**Lady Spartan Invitational 6<sup>th</sup> Place Overall 79 5435 yards (70 Participants) 1<sup>st</sup> Class of 2019**

**Bourbon County Invitational 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall 82 5419 Yards (50 Participants) 1<sup>st</sup> Class of 2019**

**KHSAA Region 9 Tournament 6<sup>th</sup> Place Overall 79 5421 Yards (63 Participants) 1<sup>st</sup> Class of 2019**

**Member of KHSAA Region 9 Championship Team**

**KHSAA State Championship 23<sup>rd</sup> Overall 80-79 5713 Yards (153 Participants) 2<sup>nd</sup> Class of 2019**

<http://khsaa.org/2015-state-golf-girls-individual-leaderboard/>

**Named to the 5 member 2015 KYGCA Region 9 All Region Team**

**Whitney Messer 102 Powell Drive Barbourville, Kentucky 40906 (859) 935-4174**

### Part III

Whitney has defied many odds to become the player that she has. She has overcome medical issues, geographic issues and financial shortcomings, but has still managed to perform at a high level. She started playing at a young age, but began having some issues with her knees around age 13. . She was found to have alignment issues with her legs, but she was fortunate that Shriners could do a surgery to fix the problem.. She still has the scars and the pins remain in both knees, but luckily the pain has subsided. .

Another huge obstacle for us has been geographically. We may live in the worst part of the state to play junior golf. She attends the poorest school district in the state of Kentucky, but through the hard work and determination of a few kids, they were able to lead the school to consecutive Class A State Championships. Whitney was overall Runner- up in the 2015 All A State Championship and was only one of two kids to shoot in the 70s that day (the field included three girls that signed D-1) The other girl that shot in the 70s signed a golf scholarship to the University of Tennessee. .Probably the biggest hindrance for Whitney has been proximity to instruction and tournament play. Outside of a single AGJA event in London, Ky., there is not one regional event inside a 1.5 hour drive. Unlike many other players around the state there is never a day where she can just hop in a car and drive 20 minutes to play a tournament.. Every tournament requires an overnight stay, and even our instruction requires a drive in excess of one hour.

I really hope Whitney will be considered for this grant. She is a great kid and an excellent student (4.0 GPA) She has put in thousands of hours of work to become one of the top players, but without the grant her chances to play are few. My wife and I work hard to provide both of our girls the opportunity play, but entry fees, travel and lodging has made it almost impossible to fund it. We even have to pay our own entry for high school events. Please consider her for the grant. She puts in the time and through opportunity she might take her game to another level.

Financial Info: Household 6

Family Adjusted Gross Income \$60,212