

## Justin Thomas Fund Grant Application

### PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: Dexter Blake Evans

Address: P.O. Box 145

City: West Liberty State: Kentucky Zip: 41472

Date of Birth: March 24, 2000

High School: Morgan County High School

Currently, I am a high school: \_\_\_\_\_ Freshman \_Sophomore \_\_X Junior \_\_\_\_\_Senior

Parent Phone #: 606 477 5367

Applicant Email: [dbevans@mrtc.com](mailto:dbevans@mrtc.com)

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## **Part II Applicant Essay**

It is very hard for me to say I “deserve” to receive an award or anything for that matter. I have always been taught that great things are received through hard work whether it be earning a 3.9 GPA or sports awards. Therefore, I would be honored to receive the Justin Thomas Fund Grant in pursuit of my dream to become a collegiate golfer. If chosen, I would do my very best to represent Mr. Thomas to my full potential.

I guess you could say I was born to play golf. My love for the game started before I even realized it as a toddler. My birth announcement read “Daddy’s Caddy”. One of my favorite pictures is a framed memory of my dad and I on the local golf course. I was a 14 month old baby with plastic golf clubs proudly standing next to my dad on the course. That nine hole golf course has continued to be a memory maker for me as I couldn’t begin to estimate the amount of time and holes I have played on that course in the last 17 years. As I write this essay, I think how my time on that golf course has went from me following my dad’s every footstep, hitting and moving my ball to keep up with Dad to now consistently beating my dad every time we play. It is bittersweet for both my parents and myself as I continue to chase my dream of playing at the college level and beyond.

As a fifth grader the high school golf coach invited me to start practicing with the team. Although I wasn’t eligible to compete on the high school team, I welcomed the opportunity to practice and improve my game. At the beginning of my seventh grade year I was allowed to competitively join the team at Morgan County High School. My eighth grade year I missed going as to the KHSAA State Tournament as an individual by 2 strokes. Freshman year, the desire to reach state was achieved through many long hours of hard work and determination. I was honored to be the first male golfer from my school to reach the state tournament. However, I realized I just didn’t want to be at the state tournament playing, I wanted to be a top finisher. I started taking weekly golf lessons in Lexington, Kentucky. The two hour drive each way was long but worth every mile. I have improved and reaped the awards for my dedication.

As a member of the KYJR PGA tour I have had the opportunity to play courses all over the state. During the summer of 2015 I did not win an event. However, I started the 2016 Tour Season winning my first event and continued to win events. I was humbled and honored to be named the 2016 KYJR PGA Player of the Year at the end of the tour season. As the summer tour wrapped up, I began my sophomore

golf season at my high school. I had a very successful golf season as I shot my personal best of 71, played in both the All A State Tournament, and the KHSAA State tournament making the cut to play in day two of the state tournament. The summer of 2017 was very successful for me. I played in twelve KYJR PGA events winning five and runner-up in one. I was once again honored to be named the 2017 KYJR PGA Player of the Year. I also played in 2 AJGA events. My high school season began with me shooting my personal best of 68 to win the Ashland Tee Cat Invitational at Bellefonte Country Club. I participated in both the All A State Tournament and KHSAA State Tournament as the Individual Qualifier for my region. I finished the KHSAA State Tournament 30<sup>th</sup> out of 144 high school golfers. I was named Second Team All-State, Regional Player of the Year and Ashland Daily Independent All Area Player of the Year. My golf season ended with me being honored to play in my second JB Holmes Cup representing Team Kentucky.

I truly realize the importance of the KYJR PGA experience and want to continue to be a participant in future years. I also realize the importance in playing in national tournaments. I was able to play in two AJGA tournaments last summer and plan to add to that number this upcoming summer. Participating in these tours will increase my exposure with college coaches. I have truly come to realize the financial support it takes to play golf at this level. My parents have careers that support not just me but also my sister in our extracurricular activities. I know my parents have made sacrifices that have allowed me to pursue my passion for this sport that includes tournaments and travel cost. I would love to show my appreciation for their support and love. If I were to receive the Justin Thomas Fund Grant, my parents and I would forever be appreciative of this support that could truly be a game changer for my future. The desire and passion to succeed is within me, having this addition financial support would be an unmeasurable support to increasing my exposure with college coaches.

In closing if I must say "Why I deserve a grant" my answer would be coming from a small town I work hard and take advantage of every opportunity to better myself not only as a player but an individual. I have made consistent improvements each year to become a respected competitor. If awarded this grant, rest assure I will use it to improve my game each time I step on the course. My goal at the end of this summer is to be offered a college scholarship putting me one step closer to my dream. I sincerely thank

you for the opportunity to share my golf story and for the support you are showing young golfers around the state. I hope to one day myself be able to help support another person's dream. Thank you.

### **Part III Performance Record**

#### **2017 KY Junior PGA Tour:**

Griffin Gate Spring Stableford--1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Weissinger Hills Junior Tour Spring Stableford Combo – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Quail Chase Spring Stableford #3-- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Eagle Trace Junior PGA – 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Bellefonte CC Junior PGA --1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Bowling Green CC Junior PGA -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Paintsville CC Junior PGA—2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Stone Crest CC Junior PGA -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Bardstown CC Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship -- 39th Place  
Hidden Cove Junior PGA -- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Keene Run Junior PGA – 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
JB Holmes Cup Team Kentucky

#### **2017 High School Golf**

Ashland Tee Cat Invitational—1<sup>st</sup> place with personal best 68 (-2) Bellefonte County Club  
All A Regional Champion  
Region 12 State Qualifier  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team All State  
KHSAA State Tournament 30<sup>th</sup> out of 144  
Ashland Daily Independent All Area Player of the Year

#### **2016 KY Junior PGA Tour:**

Marriott Griffin Gate—1<sup>st</sup> place 89  
Juniper Hills Spring Regional—6<sup>th</sup> place 1<sup>st</sup> Round 80 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Round 86  
Eagle Trace Golf Course—1<sup>st</sup> place 74  
Junior PGA Championship—Tie for 45<sup>th</sup> +22 over 2 rounds

Bowling Green CC—tie for 7<sup>th</sup> 79

University of KY Club—Tie 2<sup>nd</sup> 81

Winchester CC—1<sup>st</sup> Place 78

KY Jr Amateur—Tie for 76<sup>th</sup> +20 over 2 rounds

Eagle Trace Golf Course—1<sup>st</sup> place 77

Hidden Cove Summer Regional—2<sup>nd</sup> place +14 over 2 rounds

Junior Combo at Keene Trace and Champion Trace—1<sup>st</sup> place +7 over 2 rounds

Bellefonte CC—1<sup>st</sup> place 79

KYPGA Junior Championship Keene Run—Tie for 13<sup>th</sup> +19 over 2 rounds

JB Holmes Cup Team Kentucky

### **2016 High School Golf:**

Laurel Oaks Classic—2<sup>nd</sup> place with personal best 71 (-1) in tournament play

Qualified as an individual in the Regional Tournament for the KHSAA State Tournament by finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with a score of 76

Participated in the KHSAA State Tournament and finished Tied for 32<sup>nd</sup> overall with a 2 day combined score of +12 (75) and (81).

### **2015 KY Junior PGA Tour:**

Juniper Hills Spring Regional—8<sup>th</sup> place 1st Round 85, 2<sup>nd</sup> Round 79

Winchester Country Club—7<sup>th</sup> Place 85

University Club of KY—6<sup>th</sup> Place 79

Summer Regional at Keene Trace Golf Course—17<sup>th</sup> Place 1st Round 88, 2<sup>nd</sup> Round 94

Eagle Trace Golf Course—5<sup>th</sup> Place 89

### **2015 High School Golf:**

Qualified in Regional Golf Tournament for KHSAA State Tournament as an Individual with a score of 78

Participated in the KHSAA State Tournament and finished with a round of 80 and missed the cut.