

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: Jenaleigh Ellis

Address: 181 Glenview Drive

City: Taylorsville

State: KY

Zip: 40071

Date of Birth: 03/21/2001

High School: Spencer County High School

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

Parent Phone #: (601) 527-5277

Applicant Email: jenaleigh.ellis@gmail.com

Parent/Guardian's Email: maellis53@yahoo.com

PART II - APPLICANT ESSAY

- Please explain why you feel as though you deserve to be awarded a Justin Thomas 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

SUBMISSION

Return Application by mail with Part II, III to:

Kentucky Golf Foundation
Attention: Justin Thomas Grant
1116 Elmore Just Drive
Louisville, Kentucky 40245

OR by email to:

Connie Saner
csaner@kygolf.org

Applications must be received at Golf House Kentucky
by 4 p.m. on May 4, 2018

From a young age, my grandparents have always taught me that I cannot be successful without working hard. Whether it is in school, sports, or other activities like 4-H, I am always expected to put in my best effort, regardless of any hardships or financial burdens. I was born into unfortunate circumstances with my mother addicted to heroin, so myself and my four sisters had to endure many obstacles that came from her addiction. I was taken from her when I was four and custody was granted to my grandparents. Because of my grandparent's support, I have never been allowed to give up and am expected to take every opportunity I'm given. As a child, I didn't understand why they pushed me the way they did, but I've come to realize their efforts were an attempt to help me be as successful as possible. I am thankful for their lessons, motivation, and my circumstances because it has helped to shape me into the athlete and person I am today. I believe I deserve the Justin Thomas Fund Grant because I would value and wholeheartedly take advantage of this financial opportunity to further my academic and athletic career. This grant, simply put, is a very important avenue for stepping up my competition level from local to state and even national opportunities.

I began my golf journey only two years ago, the summer before my sophomore year of high school. I was very excited at the opportunity to learn a new skill and make new friends. My first activity was a putt-a-thon, where we had to make 100 putts from five feet for pledges. I only made twenty-three, but this experience was the first spark that would soon become a fire of passion for the game of golf. I learned as much as I could in my first season, and I fell in love. I soon got a job working at Tanglewood Golf Course, which was just down the road from my house. I made \$7.50 an hour washing carts and taking out the trash, then spent any time I wasn't busy working on my game. On days where I didn't have a ride, I would walk the mile to and from the course, never wanting to miss the opportunity to get better. It didn't matter to me that

my clubs were old and used, or that I didn't have all the new technology- all that mattered to me in this moment was that I was playing the game I loved, and I was addicted.

My grandparents quickly realized how committed I had become. They respected my dedication and despite our stressful financial situation, bought me a brand-new set of clubs. This fueled the fire and motivated me incredibly, because with the new clubs alone, I saw a new player emerge. It was then I knew that if I worked hard enough, someday, if it took ten months or even ten years, I could be something.

After shooting a 95 at regionals in September, I decided to get lessons to step up my game. As soon as I could drive, I got another job serving tables so that I can afford lessons at The Golf Academy at Persimmon Ridge. My grandparents wanted to support me as much as possible, but around this time my mom had an unplanned baby and checked herself into rehab. I never imagined I'd be able to afford such great teachers with my circumstances, but they allowed me to negotiate a lower payment. This way I am able pay for the lessons myself. The time I spend and instruction I receive at this facility is invaluable, and I have never taken for granted the opportunities it has given me. Even though almost all my money is spent on golf, it is worth it when I see myself improving. I have learned so much about myself as a golfer and athlete through my lessons. I try my hardest to practice at least two hours every day in order to get better and someday be recruited to play on a college team. This is where I am now. Most of my paychecks go towards registering for tournaments on the KY Jr PGA, and The Hurricane Junior Golf Tour so that I can get as much experience as possible and hopefully improve greatly before my senior season. I have high aspirations of playing on a college team, so I need to give myself as many regional, state, and national opportunities as possible. I still have a very long way to go with my golf game, but I am still addicted, and the fire still burns bright.

Jenaleigh Ellis

Class of 2019
Spencer County High School
181 Glenview Drive, Taylorsville
Kentucky, 40071
Home (502) 354- 0065
Cell (601) 616- 5309
jenaleigh.ellis@gmail.com



Profile and Academics

DOB: March 21, 2001

Height: 5'5

Weight: 135

GPA: 3.8

ACT: 26

Class Rank: 52/226

AP Courses

AP Human Geography
AP United States Government and Politics
AP English Language and Composition
AP Literature
AP Physics

Honors Courses

Honors Biology
Honors Geometry
Honors Algebra II
Honors English

Extracurricular Activities

Middle/High School Theatre- Choreographer/Head of Set/Actress
4-H Teen Council- Secretary
Marching/Concert Band- Field Commander
Church Worship Band
Beta Club
Fellowship of Christian Athletes- Leadership

6th – Freshman
6th – Junior
Freshman – Junior
Sophomore - Junior
Sophomore – Junior
Sophomore – Junior

Community Service

Serve to Worship
4-H Camp, Teen Leader
Junior Achievement Teacher – 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th grades

8th - Junior
Freshman – Junior
Junior

Description of Game

Addicted to the process of improving

Ambitious

Driven to play college golf

Competitive

Determined

Goal – Oriented

Match/Tournament Results

8-8-17	High School Match Tanglewood Golf Course Taylorsville, KY	Shot 52 1 st place team 4802 yardage
8-12-17	Nelson County Invitational Bardstown Country Club Bardstown, KY	Shot 109 6004 yardage
8-14-17	High School Match Tanglewood Golf Course Taylorsville, KY	Shot 51 1 st place team 4802 yardage
8-17-17	High School Match Tanglewood Golf Course Taylorsville, KY	Shot 49 2 nd place team 4802 yardage
9-5-17	High School Match Tanglewood Golf Course Taylorsville, KY	Shot 39 1 st place team/individual 4802 yardage
9-11-17	High School Match Heritage Hills Golf Course Shephardsville, KY	Shot 45 2 nd place team 5097 yardage
9-19-17	High School Match Tanglewood Golf Course Taylorsville, KY	Shot 51 1 st place team 4802 yardage
9-26-17	Girls Regional Tournament Lincoln Trail Golf Course Vine Grove, KY	Shot 95 13 th place 6209 yardage

References

Cory Kaufman

Golf Coach

The Golf Academy

Persimmon Ridge Golf Club

(843) 290-0502

Tara Alcorn

Director of Bands

Spencer County High School

Taylorsville, KY

(859) 779- 3069

2018 Tentative Golf Schedule

Jenaleigh Ellis

Class of 2019

Spencer County High School

Taylorsville, KY

May 6

KYPGA Stableford at Lakeside

Lakeside Golf Course

Lexington, KY

May 19-20

College Prep Series at UK

University Club- Big Blue

Lexington, KY

May 26-27

KYPGA Summer Preview at Seneca GC

Seneca Golf Course

Louisville, KY

June 2-3

Major Championship at Persimmon Ridge

Persimmon Ridge Golf Course

Louisville, KY

June 5

KYPGA Junior at Polo Fields Country Club

Polo Fields Country Club

Louisville, KY

June 6-7

Girls Junior PGA Championship Qualifier

Kearney Hill Golf Links

Lexington, KY

June 14

KYPGA Junior at Lakeside Golf Course

Lakeside Golf Course

Lexington, KY

June 15

KYPGA Junior at Old Bridge Golf Course

Old Bridge Golf Course

	Danville, KY
June 20-21	Lake Nona Classic presented by Lou Holtz Lake Nona Golf and Country Club
	Orlando, FL
July 5-6	KYPGA Junior Summer Classic Quail Chase Golf Course
	Louisville, KY
July 28	KYPGA 9-Hole Series at Juniper Hill Juniper Hill Golf Course
	Frankfort, KY
August 2	KYPGA 9-Hole Series at Weissinger Hills Weissinger Hills Golf Course
	Shelbyville, KY
August 11	KYPGA 9-Hole Series at Seneca Golf Course Seneca Golf Course
	Louisville, KY
August 19	KYPGA 9-Hole Series at Quail Chase GC Quail Chase Golf Course
	Louisville, KY
September 9	KYPGA 9-Hole Series at Cherokee GC Cherokee Golf Course
	Louisville, KY
October 13-14	KYPGA Junior Fall Classic at UClub of KY University Club of KY- Wildcat
	Lexington, KY
October 27-28	Harmony Landing Junior Open Harmony Landing Country Club
	Goshen, KY