

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: RYLEA A. MARCUM

Address: 135 PRESTWICK DRIVE

City: GEORGETOWN State: KY Zip: 40324

Date of Birth: 8/6/2001

High School: SCOTT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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

Parent Phone #: 859-421-5325

Applicant Email: RYLEA.MARCUM@GMAIL.COM

Parent/Guardian's Email: SMARCUM872@GMAIL.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

**APPLICANT ESSAY FOR
RYLEA MARCUM**

First and foremost, I would like to thank the members of the Justin Thomas Fund Grant Committee for your consideration and the opportunity to apply for such a generous award. I have been fortunate enough to compete in Justin's AJGA event at Harmony Landing the past two years, and both he and Mr. Mike Thomas have been incredible. If I am lucky, I'll have more opportunities to compete in similar events around the country.

Golf has meant so much to me throughout the years that I have difficulty really putting my finger on any single reason that I love the game as much as I do. As I think about it, golf has guided me through some difficult times during my teens by keeping me focused, grounded and by providing me with solid examples of the nine core values set forth by The First Tee (honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy & judgment). Although each of these values is utterly important in life, the core value of "perseverance" has resonated with me the most. Specifically, I was born with a congenital birth defect in the retinal nerve of my right eye. This has resulted in multiple surgeries, my vision never developing properly, and consequently led to me being legally blind in that eye with a corrected eyesight of only 20/800 in my right eye. As you can imagine, it has made playing golf quite a bit more challenging. I frequently struggle to see my ball after I have hit it and the impact on my depth perception brings an added level of complexity into reading greens and putting in general. When I was younger I was embarrassed to tell other parents and players my age that I couldn't see my ball from a distance. But over the years I've learned that despite my eyesight challenges, I've been able to excel in a sport with which many very athletically gifted people struggle. This has provided me with a sense of pride and confidence that I believe I would've never developed absent my involvement in golf, and for that I am very thankful.

I started playing tournament golf at a very young age. As my game has developed and I have gotten older, the level at which I am now competing has increased. Unfortunately, the cost of competing at a

higher level has increased at an exponential rate. My parents have three children, including me, yet have always been very supportive and done what they could to provide me with the funds necessary for entry fees, travel costs and such, but I know that has been financially straining. I have spoken with a couple of colleges who have indicated that they like to see players play outside the state in which they live so that they play against different players, different levels of talent and on different styles of courses. As I mentioned, I have played in two AJGA tournaments here in Kentucky, but I want to play more often in different states to gain experience, increase my exposure and become the best player that I can. My goal has always been to develop my skills to a level that I may play competitively at the Division I college level, while at the same time earning the best education possible while doing so. In order to do this, it will undoubtedly be expensive.

I have worked very hard over the years to improve my game, and I continue to do so as I get older. An additional goal that I've recently added to my list is to establish myself in the World Amateur Golf Rankings and possibly have the opportunity to compete in the newly established Augusta National Women's Amateur. That would be a dream come true for me. However, I know that such lofty goals will be expensive. It will require more frequent travel, tougher tournaments and more expensive tournament altogether. I would like to do what I can to help my parents shoulder the cost in any way that I can, and this award would help me tremendously in that effort. Again, thank you for your consideration for this award. I truly appreciate it.

**Justin Thomas Fund
2018 Grant Application**

Name: **Rylea Marcum**

Address: **135 Prestwick Drive Georgetown, KY 40324**

Birth Date: **August 6, 2001** (16 years old)

Golf Experience/Accomplishments (years played, tournament experience, High school team, etc.)

- Started playing golf at seven (7) years of age
- Began competitive tournament play at eight years of age
- Currently ranked No. 2 female in Kentucky's Class of 2020 (Junior Golf Scoreboard)
- Currently ranked No. 3 female overall in Kentucky (Girls all ages - Junior Golf Scoreboard)
- Currently ranked No. 106 in the country for Class of 2020 (Junior Golf Scoreboard)
- Five (5) year letterman Scott County Girls Golf Team (currently seeded No. 1)
- 2013 KJGF Musselman-Dunne Player of the Year (Girls 11-13)
- 2013 KJGF Musselman-Dunne Tour Champion (Girls 11-13)
- Finished 3rd overall as a Freshman in 2016 KHSAA State Golf Championship
- Finished 3rd overall 2016 Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship
- 2013 & 2015 recipient of Kentucky House of Representatives Athletic Achievement Award (Golf)
- Kentucky State Senate Commendation for excellence in golf (2016)
- 2014 Kentucky Junior Amateur Champion (Girls 12 & under)
- 2016 Kentucky Junior Amateur Champion (Girls 13-15)

Performance Record

<u>2017</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Field</u>
42 nd Junior Girl's PGA Championship	77-77-MC	6290	88	144
39 th North & South Junior Championship	80-84-77	5800	58	84
2017 Kentucky Junior Masters Invitational	78-75	5778	2	31
Kentucky Girl's Junior Amateur	72-76	5730	3	42
AJGA - Strategic Communications / Justin Thomas Junior Championship	85-77-79	5908	14	24
GolfWeek Junior Tour Championship	76-80-72	5830	6	43
Junior PGA Championship Section Qualifier	77-73	5599	5	54
HJGT - College Prep Series at UK	81-73	5648	3	26
GolfWeek Junior Tour at Cherry Blossom Golf & CC	77-81	5654	10	30
GolfWeek Junior Tour at Keene Run CC	82-77	5601	7	28

2016

KHSAA State Championship	73-77	5816	3	152
Kentucky Women's Open	80-77	5980	36	53
Kentucky Girls Junior Amateur Championship	71-76	5730	3	43
2016 Junior PGA Championship Section Qualifier – Kentucky	80-83	5682	8	40
GolfWeek Junior Tour Championship	77-76-80	5485	5	19
HJGT-College Prep Series at UK-Big Blue	85-79	5603	8	25
2016 Kentucky Junior Masters Invitational	87-85	5683	14	30

2018 Proposed Schedule
Rylea Marcum

1. Golfweek Junior Tour Championship
May 26-28 at Big Blue
2. Junior PGA Qualifier
June 6-7 at Kearney Hills
3. U.S. Girl's Junior Qualifier
June 14 at Country Club of Hudson, OH
4. KY Junior Amateur
June 28-29 at Cherry Blossom
5. North & South Junior
July 2-4 at Pinchurst
6. Junior PGA National Championship
July 9-12 at Kearney Hills (if qualified)
7. Marion Miley Tournament
July 12-13 at Lexington C.C.
8. Kentucky Women's Open
July 24-25 at Cardinal Club

* These are tournaments the are planned as of now. If I were to qualify for the U.S. Girl's Junior, I would also plan to travel to California to compete in that.