

## PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: Whitney Messer

Address: 115 Pine Street

City: Barbourville State: KY Zip 40906

Date of Birth: 8/9/2000

High School: Barbourville

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

Parent Phone #: 606-622-7781

Applicant Email: whitnymesser77@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 to final results
- Performance Record must be typed

## PART VI – 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 VI 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 p.m. on May 4, 2018

If I am fortunate enough to receive the Justin Thomas Scholarship, I will use the money to help fund my summer and fall golf schedule. Hopefully I can use this opportunity to fulfill my dream of playing college golf at a division 1 university. No grant support would ultimately limit opportunities for college coaches to evaluate my play.

With the help of previous grant awards, I was fortunate enough to get invited to visit three Div-1 Universities this past spring. All three coaches have indicated that they would continue evaluating my play during the summer golf season. This grant would allow me to cover entry fees and other tournament expenses that otherwise would be tough to pay for. If I can play in more tournaments, I have more of a chance to secure an offer from these schools.

I am appreciative of how hard both of my parents work to pay for golf expenses. My dad is a teacher, painter, and bus driver; my mom works at my school as a teacher's aide and cleans a dental office. Since two-day golf tournaments are expensive, my parents have to work extra hard to pay for them on a limited budget. This grant would help a great deal with my parents' financial situation.

Golf has given me great 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. We have very few golf tournaments that don't require overnight stays, which makes every tournament we play really expensive. Without the help of this grant, I can see little opportunity of playing enough events to secure an offer. If selected as the recipient of this grant, I promise to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities it presents. This grant would help offset some of the costs of travel, practice, and entry into high-level events. Junior girls' golf is a dying sport in my region of Kentucky and hopefully with enough success and recognition I could be an inspiration for others to play the sport I love.

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 probably 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 hard work she has overcome some of these obstacles to become one of the best players in the state. Being a recipient of last year's grant played a huge factor in preparing her for her biggest accomplishment in golf up to this point. She shot a personal best 71 in the first round of the KHSAA state tournament, which put her in a tie for the lead. That great round put her on the radar of multiple division 1 programs. She also won two 75+ player invitations last fall as well as finishing top 3 in multiple regional events funded through this grant. She has the potential to do great things this summer and fall and being a recipient of the grant would significantly increase the likelihood of this happening. Travel is just a nightmare for us and that really adds to the expense of tournaments being feasible on our budget. 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 we play outside of the one AJGA event requires an overnight stay which adds even more to the expense.

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 achieve her dream of playing Division I golf.

Sincerely, Tim Messer

Financial Info: Household 6

Family Adjusted Gross Income \$58,053

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

14 Southeast Kentucky Junior Tour wins-

2013 Kentucky Junior Amateur Championship Runner Up 12 and Under

2017

Leachman KHSAA State Golf Championships	71-84	5816	10 <sup>th</sup> /152
Central Kentucky Classic Sept. 17, 2017	76 (+3)	5708	1 <sup>st</sup> /78
Nelson County Lady Card Invit. Aug. 12, 2017	74	5401	1 <sup>st</sup> /84
13 <sup>th</sup> Region All A Classic	36	N/A	1 <sup>st</sup>
HJGT Canongate Series #5, Aug 5 - 6, 2017	78-78	5735	3 <sup>rd</sup> /12
AJGA City of London Junior Championship	79-83-MC	6018	
GolfWeek Junior Tour at Miami University	79-80	5580	2 <sup>nd</sup> /9
2017 Junior PGA Championship Section Qualifier	78-78	5599	12/54

### **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 Kentucky Class A State Championship Team**

**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 115 Pine Street Barbourville, Kentucky 40906 606-622**