

**Governor's Scholars Program
2016 Community Recommendation Form**

MUST BE TYPED

Recommender's Name **Jenny** Applicant's Name **Danielle**
 Recommender's Position & Organization **Nurse at Children's Hospital**

How long have you known this applicant? **Approximately 8 years**

In what capacity have you interacted with this applicant? **I have known Danielle very well and interacted with her extensively over the years including, but not limited to, community service projects, mission trips, church activities and service, recreational, and within the community.**

Please check the number that represents your experience with this applicant as related to the qualities listed below. 5 represents the highest score and 1 represents the lowest score. Indicate an "in-between" by adding a "+" or "-" after it.

Willingness and ability to contribute to the community	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Cooperation, social and emotional maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Character, integrity, and honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Consideration and attitude toward others	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Flexibility, willingness to adapt to new situations and accept changes	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Motivation, initiative, and self-starting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Willingness to pursue visionary ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Self discipline, responsibility, and dedication to following through	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Creativity and originality of thought	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
Inquisitiveness, interest in a variety of topics and issues	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

As you respond to the following questions, please be sure to include specific details and examples. Brief responses that lack specific information do not provide the selection committee with sufficient information and will result in a lower score.

1. What do you consider to be the most relevant strength and weakness of this applicant in terms of his/her community involvement and leadership potential?

Danielle's most striking strength is undoubtedly her character. I have known Danielle in many roles: athlete, volunteer, friend, and leader. She is consistently honest, responsible, and mature. Danielle has played sports under the leadership of my husband, who is Athletic Director of the middle school she attended. Now that she is in high school, Danielle volunteers her time for the middle school in various roles to help the sports program. When I asked my husband what Danielle's great quality is, he said Danielle is honest and trustworthy. My husband does not feel the need to supervise Danielle in the ways he sometimes has to supervise other student volunteers. He has assigned Danielle to collect fees at the entrance to games, fully trusting her to be responsible for large sums of money.

I have witnessed Danielle as a leader at church. She has been an official leader with the children's program, for which she volunteered her time to teach young children. I have witnessed Danielle miss out on other activities she wanted to do because she was already committed to serving in the children's area. I have seen her compassionately teaching the small children with patience and maturity; and we have full trust in her to do so. Danielle has been an unofficial leader to the younger teens in the youth group. She has taught them how to self-reflect on their own beliefs and attitudes, and I have seen them look up to Danielle with great respect.

Danielle's character has proven her trustworthy enough that I have trusted her to dog-sit our dogs. While this may seem a small gesture to some, my dogs are essentially my children and I am highly cautious in whom I charge with their care in my absence. Danielle has dog-sat for us multiple times and has proven herself to be a trustworthy and responsible caregiver. Once, while watching our dogs, my beagle became ill. Danielle was compassionate, cleaned up after him, and made sure he was comfortable and safe. I was thankful and relieved to know Danielle was taking care of my ill dog. I fully and completely trust Danielle with their care because she has proven time and time again that her character is honest, mature, and responsible.

I have seen Danielle volunteer her time to serve the community in numerous ways; repairing homes, serving food to those in need, packing meals for Kids Against Hunger, cleaning up the local park, giving time to her former middle school sports program, and mission trips. She has the kind of character that drives her to serve others lovingly, respectfully, and maturely.

Danielle's weakness would be that she takes on a lot of responsibility. Because Danielle is trustworthy, mature, and responsible, she is asked to take on a lot of responsibilities. With a lot of responsibilities comes a lot of time consumption. Some of the hardest lessons in life are learning how to best time-manage and create opportunity for others. I have no doubt Danielle is well on her way to be a well-rounded person.

2. What is most unique about this applicant? If you are aware of any hardships/conditions (social, emotional, or otherwise) that may affect this applicant's participation in the Governor's Scholars Program, please note them here.

Perhaps Danielle's most unique feature is her sensitivity in situations and with people. She is highly attuned to the mood of situations and to the emotions of others. Danielle can immediately recognize and feel when someone does not feel welcome in a situation. She can sense tenseness in situations and in people before others can. She can sense the emotions of others that they may be holding back.

I have been in hundreds of conversations with Danielle and other adults, and have watched her challenge adults on many subjects. I have seen her understand when it is okay to keep pushing and I have seen her exhibit sensitivity and know when to take a step back and give someone space when wrestling with challenging or emotional topics. Danielle has shown this level of sensitivity and attunement when adults in the same conversation/situation failed to.

Danielle often talks about her friends and their emotions she observes. She talks about recognizing when they have felt welcome, loved, outcast, hurt, etc. She has recognized these emotions in them because she is sensitive to people around her in all situations, and she discusses her observations with adults around her as a way to reflect on how she can best support others.

I once went on a mission trip with Danielle (and others) to New Orleans. I became irritable toward the end of the trip. I did not share why I was irritable, but I felt a huge weight of responsibility for the safety of the teenagers in such a large and unfamiliar city and I felt overwhelmed by some personal anxieties. My irritability was not evident to everyone, but it was obvious that Danielle noticed. She did not assume that I was just in a bad mood, because for the remainder of the trip she performed several small gestures of niceness towards me. She didn't gain anything from doing those gestures, in fact, most of them inconvenienced her. She performed those gestures for no other reason than to be nice to me and because she sensed some of the emotions I was carrying. That sensitivity and action from Danielle directly improved my own mood and anxiety.

3. Based on your experience with the applicant, what would you expect the single greatest contribution of this individual to be at the Governor's Scholars Program?

I believe Danielle brings a lot to the table, but especially so her gift of reflection. I have encountered few teenagers with the ability of self-reflection Danielle is gifted with. Self-reflection is vital to character growth, and many of us do not learn how to self-reflect until much later in life. I have watched Danielle in many situations take a step back and review her actions, beliefs, and attitudes and then make changes through the process of self-reflection.

One example of this is her desire to build meaningful relationships with people. I have engaged in many conversations with Danielle where I have observed her evaluate the purpose of relationships, examine her own faults and failures in relationships with her peers, and then seek to make relational changes to be a more meaningful and purposeful friend. She has sought the advice of both peers and adults. Danielle possesses a selfless relational desire and has coordinated activities with her friends that serve them, rather than herself.

Another way I have witnessed this quality in Danielle is through her spiritual reflection over the years as we have attended the same church and participated in many of the same church activities. One encounter in particular occurred on a mission trip we attended together to New Orleans to repair low income homes. Danielle reflected throughout the trip on the difference in the life she lives compared to the lives of others we encountered on the trip, on her own spirituality, and what she believes are her responsibilities in serving other people. She used her reflection to equip herself to better engage with the people of New Orleans.

These examples did not just impact Danielle, they also impacted the people whom she involved in her reflections. When Danielle engages in conversation about reflecting on how to be a better friend to her peers, it makes me stop and reflect on my own relationships and friendships. When Danielle reflects on her spirituality and openly asks questions about her beliefs, then I start to investigate my own beliefs and spirituality. Danielle does not just self-reflect in isolation, she shares her reflections, prompting and encouraging others to reflect on themselves too.

4. **(OPTIONAL)** If information that you feel is important is not included elsewhere in your recommendation, please feel free to include it here.

Danielle is GSP material in every aspect of her academics and character. As a GSP alum myself, I make that statement with full confidence. I know first-hand what GSP has to offer to Danielle; I know she will greatly benefit from and learn an immense amount of life at GSP. In addition, I also know first-hand just how much Danielle has to offer GSP; her character, her responsibility, her maturity, her gift of self-reflection, her desire to serve and build meaningful relationships with others. The people who impacted my life most at GSP were the peers I was placed there with. There are friends from GSP I am still in contact with today, 17 years later, because they taught me something meaningful about myself, about life, about humanity, and because they opened my worldview into areas of life it had not previously ventured. Danielle will be that person for others at GSP. She will be the person who taught someone how to reflect and changed their worldview. She will be the person who asked the questions that engaged someone to evaluate and understand their own belief system. She will be the person who encouraged someone to investigate and be confident in their own identity. She will be the person who comes to someone's mind 17 years later because she had a meaningful impact on the way they now interact with the world around them. The list of ways in which Danielle will positively impact people throughout her life is endless. GSP is such an opportunity for Danielle and Danielle is an opportunity for GSP.