

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2024**  
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### **BSSG Announces Character Counts! Scholarship Winners**

**Billings, MT** – The Big Sky State Games is happy to announce the 2024 Character Counts! Scholarship winners: Kennadie Peterman of Skyview High School, Ainsley McFarland of Billings West High School, Syler Pizzolato of Billings Senior High School, and Ameliya Doney of Wolf Point High School. The \$500 scholarship winners will be recognized at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Sky State Games Opening Ceremonies event on Friday, July 19.

The winners were selected based on their character, community involvement, and participation in sports. Character Counts! promotes sportsmanship and fosters good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating, and modeling the “Six Pillars of Character”: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

2023-2024 high school juniors were eligible to apply for the scholarship. Selecting students who are finishing their junior year in high school ensures that the winners may be observed as role models during their senior year. Congratulations, again, to this year’s recipients.

**Kennadie Peterman** has competed in the State Games for the past five years in two different events (Dancing and Golf). Peterman holds a 4.28 Cumulative GPA at Skyview High School. She has received the National Honor Society Outstanding Service Award, Montana Coaches Association All State Academic, the National Honor Society Outstanding Sophomore, and the YMCA Principal Leadership Award. Peterman has work experience in childcare, mentoring dance, and being a studio assistant.

**Ainsley McFarland** has competed in the State Games for the past five years in many different Shooting events. McFarland holds a 3.87 Cumulative GPA at Billings West High School and is a member of The National Honor Society. McFarland has the work experience of interning at Electrical Consultants, Inc. Ainsley competed in The Big Sky State Games shooting events as well as volunteering for the games since 2018.

**Syler Pizzolato** has been a Big Sky State Games participant in Taekwondo from 2014-2015, Swimming from 2016-2023, and Open Water Swimming from 2019-2023. His academic and athletic accomplishments at Billings Senior High School include holding a 4.43 Cumulative GPA, being on the Principal's Honor Roll (Freshman-Junior), earning three Academic All-State selections, and holding Billings Senior High School records in the 200 IM and 100 Fly.

**Ameliya Doney** has participated in Basketball in the Big Sky State Games from 2018-2023. Doney holds a 3.5 cumulative GPA at Wolf Point High School and has been on the Honor Roll for three years. Doney is also a member of the National Honor Society and was in Academic All-State for 3 years. Doney has work experience in Parks and Rec as a Maintenance Worker and as a Student Summer Custodian.

The Character Counts! Scholarship is sponsored by Mountain Alarm Fire & Security. Major sponsors of the Big Sky State Games are Kampgrounds of America, First Interstate Bank, and BlueCross BlueShield of Montana. Wendy's sponsors Opening Ceremonies. For more information, go to [bigskygames.org](http://bigskygames.org) or call (406) 254-7426.