

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is both an honor and a deeply meaningful full-circle moment for me to recommend Cohen Brinkley for the Tall Clubs International Foundation Scholarship.

I first met Cohen and his family through recreational soccer with the Lake Wylie Athletic Association (LWAA), where I had the privilege of coaching him after he moved to Clover as an elementary-aged student. From the very beginning, Cohen quite literally stood out. He was always noticeably taller than his peers, often drawing attention simply by his presence on the field. Yet what impressed me most was not his height, but how he carried it - with humility, kindness, and an awareness of others that is rare in someone so young. Even as a kid, he understood how to use his physical stature responsibly, never intimidating others, but instead lifting up his teammates through encouragement and leadership.

As a young player, Cohen listened intently, showed strong coachability, and demonstrated genuine gratitude for every opportunity. He encouraged those around him and naturally assumed leadership roles, not because of his size, but because of his character. He was, and remains, the kind of young man you hope your own child will be friends with. Those early qualities have only strengthened over time.

Cohen is now a senior with an outstanding 4.4 GPA, a testament to his discipline, perseverance, and commitment to excellence. Just as he has learned to stand tall physically, he has also learned to stand tall academically and personally. His success reflects far more than intellect; it reflects intentional effort and maturity. What makes Cohen especially deserving of this scholarship is the way he balances confidence with humility and presence with compassion.

One of the qualities I admire most about Cohen is his sincere and intentional walk of faith. He is grounded in his relationship with the Lord and strives to live out his faith daily through his actions. He understands that faith is not about perfection, but about continual growth, learning, and becoming better each day. This mindset has guided him as he has navigated standing out physically among his peers, helping him develop patience, empathy, and grace. His faith clearly shapes his leadership, work ethic, and the way he treats others in both success and adversity.

Cohen honors his commitments, values teamwork, and carries himself with maturity beyond his years. He has learned that being tall is not just a physical trait, but a responsibility - one that gives him an opportunity to lead, serve, and positively influence those around him. He is deserving of this scholarship not only because of his academic accomplishments, but because of the grounded, faithful, and compassionate young man he has become.

In closing, it has truly been a joy to watch Cohen grow, both literally and figuratively, over the years. From coaching him as a young boy to seeing the man he is today, I have had the privilege of witnessing his development firsthand. I have no doubt that his best days are ahead of him and that he will make a lasting and positive impact on the world.

Recommending Cohen as he approaches this next chapter is a true privilege. I am incredibly proud of the way he represents our community, on the field, in the classroom, in his faith, and in the way he treats others.

With sincere support,
Chance Heflin