



AMAROK EXPLORATION SCHOOL
Established 2008

500 Southern Blvd SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

+1 505-400-3615 
aiwerks@stanfordalumni.org 

February 28, 2026

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is with great honor that I wholeheartedly recommend Dax Martin for the Tall Clubs International Foundation Scholarship. Dax is a senior at Amarok Exploration School, where he has been a student since kindergarten. He will be the third of five students to graduate from our home school, and I have had the privilege of witnessing his growth over the years in intellectual curiosity, character, and servant leadership.

At Amarok Exploration School (AES), high school students are self-directed learners who choose their own classes based on their interests and curiosities. While we require students to complete a minimum of four years in each of the core subjects, they select the specialty within that subject they wish to explore, such as advanced biology versus physics. Since many of our classes are non-traditional and self-designed by both the teacher and student, they incorporate a variety of learning methods beyond the requirements of reading and writing. This includes taking trips, watching documentaries, engaging in discussions, participating in community activities, and completing projects. Dax is a kinesthetic learner who gravitates toward courses that require projects and labs, such as building an egg-launching catapult or experimenting with various materials in chemistry. This preference for building and testing naturally led him to design his own computer science class, after which he chose to further explore his interest by taking an online class through the local community college, earning an A in a course where the curve was determined by students more than four years his senior. He continued his exploration of college courses through ASU and Sophia and is currently working to complete some general education requirements for college to allow him more flexibility in his schedule as a collegiate athlete at an academically rigorous college.

Dax is a self-starter whose passion drives him to invest extra effort in pursuits that excite him. He was integral in creating the CyberPatriot Club, recruiting two girls to join his team of three, and volunteering to master Linux, an operating system with which no one on the team had prior experience. His diligence helped their newly founded team earn 3rd in the state. In Scouting, he worked with his older sisters to establish a Venture Crew, allowing older teenagers, including himself, to participate in more extreme adventures such as sailing, long-distance backpacking, skiing, and rock climbing. Within two years, he earned the Ranger Award, becoming the first in our state to achieve it in many years. Dax also

served as the main curriculum developer of his aviation course in 10th grade, where he found resources, earned his drone license, and participated in free airplane rides through Civil Air Patrol and other local organizations. He studied for his private pilot ground test and helped counsel the Scout troop on aviation and space-related merit badges.

Dax's servant leadership abilities especially shine at Brownsea Camp, a yearly camp for 10 and 11-year-olds that he has helped run since 2022. In 2024, he was asked to serve as head of the youth staff. This role made him the face of the camp for all the campers; he was entirely responsible for planning staff trainings throughout the year, running camp week, holding nightly staff briefings, keeping youth staff on task and energetic, and maintaining a positive and enthusiastic attitude in public at all times. He did such an exceptional job that he was asked to fulfill the role again in 2025, becoming the first SPL to complete two full years of camp in recent memory. He is constantly recognized by young Scouts throughout the city who remember his hilarious skits, upbeat personality, and kind heart. His four years at Brownsea have turned him into a remarkable teacher who can engage students and create understanding. I have watched him sit patiently with a 10-year-old struggling to learn knots, engaging him with stories and songs, and then move seamlessly to organizing his staff for an assembly where he performs his daily Hans & Franz skit to get the campers laughing and moving in the hot afternoon sun.

For his Eagle Project, he chose to build a new range at the local Girl Scout camp, allowing girls to experience the thrill of axe-throwing and become more comfortable in the outdoors. Within an hour of completing the construction, girls and their families were already utilizing the area. He is a constant presence at community service activities for all his clubs and earned the President's Volunteer Service Award Gold Medal in both 2023 and 2024, having completed over 575 hours of service. His 2025 award for 224 hours is currently on hold while AmeriCorps is paused. By founding a Scouts BSA troop and leading service projects, Dax has contributed over 1000 volunteer hours in total, completing the requirements for the Congressional Award Gold Medal and fostering inclusivity and leadership in his community.

Dax's reputation at Brownsea resulted in his recruitment as an Area Director at Gorham Scout Ranch this summer. He was placed in charge of Scoutcraft, running a successful program and ensuring his younger counselors had everything they needed to be successful. Before camp started, they also asked him to be Nature Director, essentially giving him two of the main jobs of camp. He combined his responsibilities with ease, teaching his staff how to use skits and projects to engage their learners, and ensured the campers had fun while earning their badges. Within two weeks, he was promoted to Program Director over the entire camp. This made him responsible for all camp programming, including ensuring that merit badges were taught effectively in all areas, running assemblies, and serving as the camp's face. He was answerable only to the Camp Director and the Ranger. Being thrown into this role with no training was stressful, but

Dax leapt into it with enthusiasm and diligence, ensuring that all the summer campers received the programs they were promised.

Dax's former soccer coach, Tom Coppedge, recently described him as "coachable, respectable, and an all-around good teammate." I could not agree more. As both his parent and a leader in his Scouting and STEM activities, I have observed Dax's exceptional growth in academic, leadership, and personal domains. He is truly an outstanding young man who is positioned to succeed. I have no doubt that he will excel in college and be a valuable asset to any community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Martin".

Alison Martin
HOME SCHOOL TEACHER