



Student Name: Jonathan Phenix

Date: March 1st, 2026

RE: The Tall Clubs International Foundation

Dear Scholarship Committee Members,

It is my honor to recommend Jonathan Phenix for your scholarship foundation. As a student who exemplifies intellectual curiosity, leadership, resilience, and an uncommon dedication to the outdoors and conservation, Jonathan stands out as one of the most impressive young individuals I have encountered in my 20 years of education and not just for his tall stature.

From the beginning of his high school career, Jonathan has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic growth. He consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available, not for accolades but out of a genuine desire to challenge himself and deepen his understanding of the world. His perseverance, willingness to embrace mistakes as learning opportunities, and disciplined work ethic have earned him multiple academic letters, recognition through the Spotlight on Scholarship Award, and selection as an ExCel Award recipient. His accomplishments are the result of discipline, curiosity, and a maturity seldom seen in students his age.

Whether in the classroom or in the community, his passion for the environment is unmistakable and deeply personal. Whether restoring Bayview Woods, cleaning the ice of Lake Waconia, mentoring younger students during ice fishing outings, or participating in highway and campsite restoration, he has consistently invested his time and energy into projects that strengthen both his community and the ecosystems around him. He has also taken part in volunteer initiatives through the Youth Service Council, Pheasants Forever, and Student Council, supporting blood drives, youth programming, and community events. His record of service shows breadth, but more importantly, sincerity and purpose.

One of the most formative experiences in Jonathan's life was the Careers in Conservation trip to Oregon, where he had the rare opportunity to take part in wildlife research, salmon hatchery tours, and field experiences such as cougar autopsies and sheep monitoring expeditions. These immersive encounters solidified his desire to pursue Environmental Science and Fisheries & Wildlife at the collegiate level. He approaches nature with both awe and respect—equally comfortable hiking wilderness trails, studying animal behavior, or reflecting thoughtfully on humanity's responsibility to heal the planet. This perspective will serve him well as he pursues his long-term goal of becoming an Environmental Science professor or high school educator.

In all areas, Jonathan exhibits remarkable character—honesty, discipline, empathy, intellectual depth, and a rare drive to make meaningful contributions to his community. I am confident that he will bring the same energy, leadership, and dedication during his journey beyond Waconia High School. Please contact me directly at mjensen@isd110.org to discuss Jonathan's credentials in more detail.

With warm regards,

Michael Jensen

WHS Science Department & PLTW Instructor

WHS Conservation Club Advisor and Girl's Varsity Tennis Coach

University of Minnesota CBS '06 - Ski-U-Mah!