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CGLC Scholarship Application Essay

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For me, soaring is my first large step of achieving my career goal of becoming a commercial pilot. I have dreamed of becoming a pilot since I was a kid, and along with that I picked up many new interests and hobbies. One of these interests is soaring. I knew that soaring existed, but I never tried it out until October 2017 when my father discovered a glider club near our residence. I flew once, and from that day on I was determined to get a glider pilot license. On that first flight, I was shaking the whole time. Not out of fear, but out of excitement. The moment I am off the ground, I feel this sensation. A mix of awe, excitement, pleasure, joy, and anticipation.

After my first glider flight, I downloaded Microsoft Flight Simulator and played all day on there. I learned a lot through glider handbooks, the simulator, and instructional videos. All throughout the winter of 2017-18, I was constantly learning, and was ready to show the CFGs at my glider club how much I am capable of. The 2018 season started, and I got many flights during this season. The longest flights that I ever had were during that season. I learned things that I didn't learn from the internet, such as: turning with rudder, zero-g pushover, and slips. I told my cousin about soaring that year, and he ended up soloing in 2020.

The 2019 season introduced me to winch launches, which I really enjoyed. I got to learn more maneuvers, efficient flying, and stalls. Many members of the club were impressed by my skill. I recall someone telling me "You are an amazing pilot. The only thing that is keeping you back from soloing is your age. If you were 14, I'd let you solo!" Around this time, the CFGs didn't fly the plane for me anymore, instead as soon as we did our checklist, they would say "She's all yours!" When I wasn't flying, I was at the flight logs, towing back gliders, or wing running. I also got a glider flight from a Civil Air Patrol "O-Flight" in a 2-33. I found no luck with thermals that season, so all of my flights averaged at about 15 minutes.

I managed to get in 15 flights in the 2020 season, and Covid didn't stop me. I was 13 in 2020, so I could officially begin flight training. Everything that I had learned previously was now put to the test. I learned new skills too, such as efficient glide slopes, and using the yaw string. My main CFG told me: "You are a fine pilot, but this season we will practice your skill to the max.". I also did my first simulated rope break, and I performed the pushover and the landing well. I learned how to preflight a glider, and how to fuel the tow plane.

This season I will get my rating, my license, my solo, and continue my soaring career. I plan on flying a lot this season, and flights average at \$40. My father told me "You do realize that I am not going to be paying for all of those flights." This is the reason why I am applying for this scholarship. My future plans include to get a powered student pilot rating, to earn my private pilot license, and to earn my commercial pilot rating so that I can fly airliners. Overall, I have high confidence in this season, and I am ready to face any and all challenges.