

## **Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose**

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Writing a statement about my ambitions and my life purpose is a daunting task. As a seventeen year old, it's hard to see past the immediate future and into what is to come in the future. I try not to think about applying to college, which is just a few months away, let alone saving for a 401(k). I've always been someone who likes to think and act in the moment, so thinking this far ahead is a difficult, yet intellectually stimulating task. In the past year, I've begun to look at myself more critically, which has helped me to better understand who I am and what I value. In doing so, I've figured out one thing that I always want to carry with me into the future: me.

It sounds cliché, but being able to look in the mirror everyday and recognize who I am is critically important to me. Part of this includes an unwavering commitment to justice, ethics, and equity. These three pillars serve as the core to my thought and decision making processes. I've developed my sense of justice by serving as a leader in my school community and working with administrators to make meaningful and effective change; I've developed my sense of ethics by founding and running our Ethics Bowl team, which allows students to challenge each other and have thought-provoking discussions; and I've developed my sense of equity by working with Patchwork farms and discussing the disparities that exist between richer and poorer communities when it comes to the accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables. While these three pillars are central to who I am, I like to think that the things that I value will change over time. I don't know what will come next in my life, but I'd like to think that the experiences that are ahead will continue to shape who I am and what I value.

It's also important to acknowledge the importance that scouting has played in my life and how it has made me who I am today. I began in scouts as a Tiger in Pack 3079 in Chicago. I had lots of friends from school who were in my Den with me, and it was a great opportunity for me to develop relationships with people outside of school. It was especially fun to go on campouts with people I knew, since I was able to connect with them in a new and different setting. However, as we got older, some of my friends began to drop out of scouting because it wasn't "cool." These were the same people with whom I went camping, hiking, and fishing, but they decided that their "coolness" was more important than the experiences that we were having. Despite this, I stuck with the program and made new friends who thought that scouting was "cool." These were people who were passionate about the outdoors, getting away from the city for a weekend (which is still important to me), and loved to learn new things. As I moved through the ranks and into Boy Scouts, I began to watch some of my scouting friends begin to drop out since they were succumbing to "coolness." I don't like to say that after this I hid the fact that I was a Boy Scout, but it wasn't as prominent in my everyday life anymore. Instead, I made scouting something that was my own and that I could have for myself, and I think that is why it's had such a big impact on my life: I was able

to leave my hectic, busy, urban life to go and learn new things about myself in nature. Simply put, not leaving with my friends to pursue the “cool” life was one of the best decisions that I’ve made.

In conclusion, I’m looking forward to using the lessons that scouting has taught me to go make a difference in our complicated world. Scouting has had a big impact on me and the person I am today, and with all the other activities and experiences that I’ve had thus far, I’m confident that I’m ready to tackle whatever is thrown my way.