

Dear Fairview Agricultural Society,

Thank you for providing this opportunity for applying to this Bursary award for youth in our community. My name is Kate Luken, and I grew up on a cattle ranch north east of Fairview. I was involved in many sports and events throughout the years and I have won multiple MVP awards, gold medals, and trophies in all of the sports I have competed in, such as competitive swimming, basketball, volleyball, cross country, figure skating, horse 4-H, and Fairview First Scouts; however, my love for competitive swimming has outgrown all other sports and events. I have been with the local swim team in Fairview since the age of three and now at age seventeen I am coaching the swim club in town while still swimming at the same time. I also have recently helped out coaching the Valleyview swim team this summer due to them not having a coach. I have won countless medals in the sport, and was also one of the youngest female swimmers to go to the Alberta Summer Games in 2018. I am very dedicated to the sport of swimming and I want to pursue my swim career further on in my life. I have dedicated countless hours at our pool in town and other pools for swim meets either coaching or competing.

Ever since I started swimming I always wanted to become a professional swimmer for a team in Alberta. I have been recruited from other coaches that have seen me swim at the Summer Swimming Provincial Championships, but sadly I always declined because I lack the money to travel to Southern Alberta to swim for a higher ranked team and potentially may spark my professional career as a swimmer. Since swimming has been an important part of my life, I have learned many skills, and it has helped me in other competitive sports to be a leader and a captain. For example, one skill I learned is patience. I have used patience in my day to day life and in all sports I play, such as having a difficult game. I use my patience to not get mad at the referee. I have learned to have a positive attitude even in the roughest times because it can help the whole team if one person keeps on smiling. I used these skills when I went to

Basketball and Volleyball Provincials with my high school team. At basketball provincials our team was down by 20 and in the last minute and thirty seconds we won the game because during our last time out, I started to cheer and all of the girls got pumped up. Then we went out on the court and everyone just had fun, I won overall MVP for our team at Provincials in 2022-2023. For 2023-2024 at volleyball provincials I won the MVP award for three games, my coach said “ You held the team together by being fresh and bringing up all of their spirits by smiling and cheering everyone on.”

During the 2023 Alberta Summer Swimming Provincial Championships I was put in a regional relay, which is a relay of the four best swimmers in your region and then you race against other regions. My relay team was full of amazing female swimmers that were so strong in the sport. We were put in the fast pool in lane seven and the girls were scared. We were given a lower ranking than we thought we would have been in and the girls got nervous. I brought all four of us into a circle, not knowing any of them personally, and I tried my best to give the best pep talk of my life. After that the girls and I proceeded to rank third and we won a medal! We were so happy, all of us broke our personal record times and were cheering. Even though it was not gold it was still an amazing experience to swim with. They all thanked me for getting us all pumped up and having fun. I got rewarded the Captain of the region after that provincials for always keeping light spirits, but always staying serious when it comes down to business.

I love swimming, coaching, and helping out at the pool and I hope that I can proceed on with my swimming career to a professional level while I go to school for Veterinarian. Thank you for your time and any consideration given to my application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kate Luken