

I would define my community as Zelienople, PA. I don't live in Zelienople, but I have multiple family members and friends that live in the community. I don't live far from the town, and I am there for school and to visit family and friends frequently. I would define Zelienople as a lively community as there is always something going on. Every Thursday there is open air business nights, and the community brings tables outside the shop with merchandise and bands play music for locals and those visiting the town. The town is always decorated at the Holidays and people come from everywhere to attend the annual parades that happen on the fourth of July, Halloween and Christmas time. My aunt has an annual fourth of July party and every year I help her to clean, cook, decorate and set up for her to celebrate the fourth with friends and family. My aunt always welcomes everyone to her celebration, and it amazes me how year after year the number of people that attend grow. This reinforces to me the close-knit feel this community provides to the people that live here. I have also had the opportunity to participate in the parade for local companies as well as sports teams.

Zelie has a very supportive and caring atmosphere, and you really feel that at any event you attend there. I have been going to Zelienople's events since I was a little girl and through those experiences with the community and my school have helped shape who I am today. I am a year-round student athlete but my passion for sports started on my community soccer team when I was just five years old. I have made some of my best friends through that team and I most likely would not have made those friendships if the community did not offer youth sport opportunities. The park at Zelienople has provided me plenty of time to meet up with friends and play at the playground and swim at the pool. The soccer team always celebrated the end of the sports season with a pool party for all the athletes and their families. This was always a fun way to celebrate the end of the season with the soccer community.

I am thankful for all the wonderful events that Zelienople hosts for the town. I have enjoyed attending Horse Trading Days, fall festivals, visiting Santa and more dinners at the local restaurants than I can count. My favorite event held in Zelienople is the Fourth of July parade. I love seeing the streets filled with chairs and blankets the day before. It shows how excited people are for the big day. I participate in the parade, and I love walking down the street and seeing all the smiling faces of the families and friends that gather to celebrate the fourth of July with the annual parade.

Zelienople is an amazing small, positive, friendly town that has provided me opportunities to meet new people, build friendships and look forward to annual celebrations that have created traditions for me and my family. I want to thank you for this opportunity and for considering me for this scholarship.