

NCR Senior Scholarship Application

Personal Statement – Tori Richter

Volleyball has had a strong impact on my life, not only as a sport but also in shaping how I respond to challenges and lead others.

Before high school, I had played basketball and planned to continue. But when I was cut from my high school basketball team as a freshman, I had to decide how I would respond. Instead of stepping away from competition, I chose to try something new and began playing boys volleyball. When Northern Lights Juniors launched a boys program during my sophomore year, I committed fully to the opportunity to grow my skills. That opportunity changed the direction of my athletic path and gave me a chance to grow within the game in ways I hadn't expected.

Starting later than many of my teammates forced me to rethink my approach. I needed to put in extra work, stay consistent, and be open to learning from others. Over time, I worked my way into a three-rotation setter role on our top boys teams (16s, 17s, and 18s). So far, the highlight of my club experience was helping our team win the AAU 17 & Under Elite Boys National Championship in 2025. While that achievement was a milestone for my club, what stood out most was how we got there: trust among teammates, clear communication, and a shared commitment to our goal.

The lessons I have learned through volleyball have carried into other areas of my life, too. I stepped up to be a student leader in both Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Faith Club, where I strived to create an environment where others felt welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. I have volunteered over 100 hours each year through charities, school events, and student outreach programs. Through these experiences, I have learned that leadership is not about recognition, but about consistently showing up for others.

I will attend Creighton University this fall, where I will pursue a degree in Exercise Science and Physical Therapy. I chose this degree because of my experience in high-level volleyball. I have seen firsthand how important training, recovery, and support are to an athlete's health and long-term success. I've also seen how the right guidance and support can boost an athlete's confidence and help them return to competition. I want to help others overcome their own challenges and return to the activities they enjoy.

I believe I am deserving of this scholarship because of how I have taken what I've learned from volleyball and applied it beyond the court. Through my leadership roles in FCA and Campus Faith Club, volunteering over 100 hours each year, and balancing school, work, and athletics, I have committed myself to growth and to supporting others. These are habits I've built over time, not one-time efforts. I plan to continue these habits in college and give back by mentoring and coaching younger athletes, just as others have invested in me.