

### **TGA Scholarship Essay**

Since 1987, my family has been involved in the raising and training of greyhounds on the family farm. When I was in grade school, I would help my Papa feed and fill water buckets for the greyhounds that were inside the kennel and also in the dog runs. I also made many trips to the training track with him and my family. As for the raising side of greyhounds, I can remember making many trips out to the kennels where the puppies would be and helping my grandmother nurse them, give shots, and worming medicine when it was needed.

My family has been a part of the Texas Greyhound Association for many years. My grandfather, James Parker, has served on the Texas Greyhound Association and has been a member of the National Greyhound Association for over 30 years. He also was active in getting the vote passed for the pari mutuel racing in Texas. He's participated in meetings throughout the years and is currently involved in the kennel business at Gulf Greyhound Park.

I have recently graduated from C.H. Yoe High School ranking 3rd in my class out of 121 kids. All my life I have been around agriculture in some way, shape, or form. I have had a very strong passion for agriculture since I was a young kid and that passion has followed me all the way through to now. I have had the opportunity to grow up showing cattle and pigs which has only grown my passion for the agriculture industry. I have also been a part of many organizations and clubs throughout the years. I have set the bar high for myself and plan on accomplishing my goals. My last four years of high school, I have spent being vice president of my school's FFA chapter, I was a student council member, my church groups KJZT president and vice president, and I have also been involved in numerous judging teams that have made me a well rounded person. I take my schooling very seriously being that I have already completed 24 college credit hours. Throughout my school years, I have also held a part time job on top of everything else. This past year I have had the opportunity to work at Ideal Poultry, which is the largest backyard non-commercial poultry producer in the United States. With that being said, I plan on majoring in Poultry Science at Texas A&M University in the fall with a minor in Agricultural Communications.