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STAY STANDING AWARD

In Memory of Marley Ryan Tauscher

ABOUT THIS AWARD

The Stay Standing Award honors the life and spirit of **Marley Tauscher**, a young woman who lived with **joy, courage, faith, and a caretaker's heart**. She noticed who was left out. She stood up when it mattered. Marley embraced life with music, friendship, travel, style, and a big love for people — especially those on the margins.

This scholarship exists to **carry that light forward — through you**.

You are more than your transcript.

WHAT THIS SCHOLARSHIP HONORS

Instead of grades or athletics, the Stay Standing Award recognizes a student who demonstrates:

- Resilience after loss, trauma, or major life disruption
- Active care for others, especially those who feel unseen or marginalized
- Courage to stand up when it would be easier to stay quiet
- Joy for life — music, movement, friendships, travel, creativity
- Faith, hope, or moral grounding
- A spark — energy, humor, style, personality, or presence

This scholarship honors students whose lives show strength forged through adversity and whose hearts instinctively look outward.

WHO CAN APPLY

This award is intentionally **inclusive and open**. Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Have any plan after graduation (college, trade, work, travel, gap year, service, or unsure)

Applicants *may* be students who have:

- Experienced loss, hardship, or instability

OR

- Demonstrated consistent care, advocacy, or service to others

No GPA minimum. No college requirement. No performance standards.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

There are **three parts** to this application. All three are required.

1. **Reflection (Choose ONE prompt)**
2. **The Marley Spark (Choose ONE creative option)**
3. **Your Next Chapter (Short answers)**

Details for each part are provided in the separate documents.

IMPORTANT NOTES

You do **not** need:

- A resume
- Awards or honors
- Test scores
- College acceptance
- Recommendation letters
- Perfect writing

You only need **honesty, reflection, and heart**.

PART 1: REFLECTION PROMPTS

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STAY STANDING AWARD — PART 1

Reflection Prompts (Choose ONE)

Instructions:

Write **300–500 words** in response to **one** of the following prompts.

Use your voice. We care about honesty, not polished essays.

PROMPT OPTIONS (Choose ONE):

1. Standing Up

Tell us about a time you stood up for someone else — or wish you had.
What did you learn about yourself through that moment?

2. Resilience

Describe a hardship or loss that shaped who you are today.
Focus on how it shaped your heart, not your achievements.

3. Faith or Values

How do your faith or personal values guide the way you treat people?

4. Living Boldly

What does living boldly mean to you, and how do you carry joy even when life feels heavy?

FORMAT NOTES

- Typed or handwritten accepted
- Google Docs, PDF, Word, or clear photo all acceptable
- Title your document with your name + prompt number (Example: “Jordan Smith — Prompt 3”)

PART 2: THE MARLEY SPARK

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STAY STANDING AWARD — PART 2 The Marley Twist (Choose ONE Option)

Instructions:

Choose **ONE** creative option below. There is no right or wrong choice. Pick the one that feels most true to you.

OPTION A: 5-Song Playlist

Create a playlist of **5 songs** that represent how you move through life or your story.

For each song (1–3 sentences), tell us:

- The feeling, story, or belief it represents for you
- Or how it connects to joy, resilience, faith, friendship, etc.

Format may be:

- List of songs in your document
- Screenshot of playlist
- Link to Spotify/Apple/YouTube
(any format is acceptable)

OPTION B: Postcard to Marley

Write a postcard-style message (digital or physical) as if Marley asked:
“Tell me something real about your life right now.”

Your message may include things like:

- Something you've overcome
- Something you're proud of
- Something funny
- Something meaningful or honest
- A dream you have
- How you care about people

Access Note:

Postage & Postcards available for pickup in student services office

OPTION C: Acts of Care — The Quiet Things That Count

List **3 small ways** you've cared for someone in the past year.

These can be simple, ordinary, or unnoticed.

For each act (2–3 sentences):

- What you did
- Why you chose to do it
- Why it mattered (or you hope it did)

Photos are welcome but not required.

OPTION D: Living Boldly Photo

Submit a photo that represents how you live boldly — through joy, faith, style, adventure, friendship, creativity, humor, etc.

Include a short description (3–5 sentences) explaining:

- Why this image feels true to you
- What it captures about your spirit or life

FORMAT NOTES

Accepted formats:

- PDF
- Google Doc
- JPG/PNG photo
- Screenshot
- Typed or handwritten description

We care about heart, not perfection.

PART 3: YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

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STAY STANDING AWARD — PART 3

Your Next Chapter (Short Answers)

Instructions:

Answer the following questions briefly.

There are no wrong answers.

1. After graduation, what do you hope to do next?

(Examples: work, college, trade school, military, travel, service, gap year, unsure, etc.)

2. Why is that path important to you right now?

3. How would this award help you as you step into adulthood?

(Examples: travel, tools/equipment, deposits, transportation, counseling, certifications, volunteer experiences, etc.)

FORMAT NOTES

- 2–4 sentences per question
- Typed or handwritten accepted
- PDF, Doc, photo, or screenshot all acceptable

ALL SUBMISSIONS: Choose how you would like to submit:

Email: tauschdm@gmail.com

Mail: Stay Standing Award: P.O Box 181, West Salem, WI 54669

Playlists: feel free to link to Dawn Tauscher on social media platforms