

LT Steven E. Combs Memorial Scholar

Grace Reilein

Stuttgart, Germany

Stuttgart High School

Auburn University

Major: Bio-medical Sciences

Activities:

- ❖ Varsity Soccer Team, Captain (10th, 11th, 12th)
- ❖ Varsity Cross Country Team
- ❖ National Honor Society, Induction (10th), Membership Lead (11th), Special Projects (12th)
- ❖ Red Cross Club
- ❖ Volunteer: Community Thrift Store-Shift Leader, Math/Chemistry/Biology Tutor at local elementary & high school, Youth Sports Assistant Coach
- ❖ Summer Employment: Camp Claire Junior Counselor



It is no secret that higher education is expensive, taking a toll on homes all around America. I always knew that I wanted to attend university, and when my last two years of high school knocked on my door, I needed to figure out two major things: where am I going and how will I pay for it? Like many other families, my parents were willing to help and finance my college education. As nice as that sounds, I could see the financial implications that came with parent and student loans, especially when my younger sister was still living at home attending high school. I wanted to take the burden into my own hands, as it is for my own education. I could see that scholarships were a great way to go.

When I received the Wings Over America Scholarship, I felt and still feel so honored. I am extremely grateful that there is an organization of people out there with the goal of assisting young people in their higher educational pursuits. I now feel a sense of financial security before leaving for college and am so excited that I can attend college without, for the most part, worrying about how I am going to pay for my housing, meals, and of course all my classes.