

Congratulations Congratulations

Sophie R. Sestero



Sophie Sestero is currently a sophomore at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, majoring in Journalism with minors in Visual Communications and English. Sophie has maintained a 3.66 overall unweighted GPA to-date while typically carrying 15-16 credit hours per semester.

While working part-time off campus, Sophie has managed to continue the strong record of volunteer achievement she started in high school. One of her favorite activities is regularly visiting the Idaho Veteran's Home and playing the harp for residents, as well as organizing an annual fundraiser that provides Christmas gifts for over 300 Boise veterans. She has been a volunteer coach with the Police Athletics League, a teaching aid for St. Mark's School, and a kitchen volunteer for St. Mark's Kitchen. Sophie also spent three years as a "Big Sister" mentoring a young girl with Big Brothers Big Sisters. During one summer break she volunteered 30 hours per week with the Parks & Recreation Department.

At Whitworth University, Sophie writes for the school newspaper, volunteered for an event benefiting St. Jude's, and belongs to "Good Deeds for Trees" promoting sustainability on campus. Sophie is a successful golfer who helped lead her team to a top ranking in the Northwest Division III Conference.

She has achieved several awards during college, including the Idaho Statesman's "Making a Difference" award, Dairymen of Idaho's Distinguished Student Award, the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Finalist, and the John Borbonus Memorial award. Sophie was also selected to be a teaching assistant for a Philosophy class of 200 students, based on her high level of achievement in coursework on the subject matter and, as her reference letter stated, her "ability to work well with struggling students."

This summer Sophie will be performing an internship with a public relations firm in an effort to continue honing her communications skills. In her spare time she enjoys reading, playing the piano, and watching classic films. Describing "character," Sophie said, "One's character should be *sui generis*, genuine and from the heart." She said it is a "devotion and loyalty [that] should reveal a love for all, not just those that deserve to be loved."

Sophie is the daughter of Paul and Maria Sestero of Boise, Idaho. Paul is a showroom consultant at the Meridian, Idaho, branch #3003 and has worked for Ferguson Enterprises for six years. Four brothers complete the Sestero family.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future, Sophie Sestero!