

Benton Branigan

SUNY Geneseo, Class of 2021

Major in Biology/Pre-Med



Impact of NYSGA Scholarship:

"I am from a family of four boys who all aspire to go on to higher education, my brother and I are both attending SUNY schools at this time and it has been an adjustment for everyone, both financially and socially. We have had to make some serious changes in order to make schooling a possibility for all of us, and the New York State Golf Association and its Scholarship has made furthering not only my education, but my brothers as well, a very real possibility. As I aspire to become a pharmaceutical equipment salesman, it is my belief that my experience working in a pro shop will help in my career. I am grateful for all that working at a golf course has done for me, but the thing that I am most grateful for is how it taught me how to communicate and connect with many different types of people from many different backgrounds. On any given day someone from across the globe could walk into the shop and start a conversation with you on their game, the weather, or events happening in the sport and you have an instant bond on this short interaction. This is something that just can't be taught in a classroom and will most definitely help me throughout my aspiring career. In terms of the lessons taught through playing golf, I believe that I am much more goal oriented because of the time spent playing the sport. Golf is, in my opinion, the most difficult sport there is and that is in large part because you are in an atmosphere where it is just you and your goal. This very much simulates real life, as you don't necessarily have teammates or coaches telling you what is right and wrong or what you should or shouldn't do. Golf makes you focus on your goal and the easiest or the best way to get there; that is not to say that it goes to plan, as every golfer knows that's hardly the case! The sport shows you how to rebound after something doesn't go your way, and that a bad shot doesn't necessarily mean your round is ruined. Bobby Jones said it best: "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots; but you have to play the ball where it lies."