



High School Woman of Excellence & Recipient of the LLWC Foundation Scholarship:

Naomi Maria Smith

A. M. Barbe High School
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Naomi Smith is the second born child of Mike and Joni Smith and resides in Lake Charles, Louisiana. She has an older brother Callen, a younger brother, Cole, and younger sister, Nykell. She has had an eclectic education in her 12 years of schooling, where she has attended a total of eight different educational institutions. She was born in Baton Rouge, moved to the mountains of Idaho until second grade, then attended schools in New Iberia, Baton Rouge and St. Francisville before landing in Lake Charles for the remainder of middle school and high school.

Being the second born child, Naomi has a strong competitive spirit. She played softball, basketball, volleyball, track and golf in middle school and soccer in high school. She qualified in the top eight for the Junior Olympics in the javelin throw category in eighth grade and later traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, where she finished in the top 10 in the nation. She also participated on an elite club volleyball team in Lake Charles, Louisiana for three years, which included travel to competitions in Florida, Georgia and Texas. This year, under her senior leadership, her high school volleyball team competed in the state tournament's semi-finals, where she was awarded the "Most Hustle Award" by her coaches. She was also named the most valuable player for two consecutive years on the soccer team. In addition, Naomi has a sincere love for the javelin throw, where she has qualified twice for state competition. She hopes to participate in the javelin throw on the collegiate level. Several educational institutions have expressed athletic interest in Naomi's track and field career, including Johns Hopkins University, Louisiana Tech University and Southern Mississippi.

Naomi has volunteered locally and internationally, where she has helped with the local food pantry, organized food drives, served on a cleaning crew for the USS Orleck Naval Ship Museum, worked at the reconstruction of Millennium Park in Lake Charles and packed pills and other medical supplies for missions' trips around the world. She traveled to Sanyati, Zimbabwe and served at a hospital for two weeks in the summer. While in Zimbabwe, she hauled medical supplies, helped with the construction and repairs on a hospital, visited elementary schools and worked with midwives at a remote birthing facility. Her experiences there have instilled a desire for future international volunteering endeavors.

Naomi has been involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, Spanish Club and the National Honor Society. In serving with the Lake Charles Youth Advisory Council, she presented ideas to local political leaders and traveled to the Louisiana State Capitol to voice the youths' opinions on policies to state and congressional representatives. She was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America and was a two-time national qualifier in public speaking and personal finance categories at a competition in Anaheim, California.

Her future ambitions include a double major in English and business law with a minor in international relations. She hopes to have the opportunity to study abroad before attending law school. She will be entering Louisiana State University this fall with more than 32 college credits obtained from her advanced placement courses taken at A. M. Barbe High School.