



cover story

Photography by Len Marks of Len Marks Photography
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meet Riley Haskell

RISING JUNIOR ON A MISSION

The Cold Spring Harbor Educational Foundation is an organization operating outside of the Cold Spring Harbor High School. Its mission is to provide the school with the best materials to then give the students the finest education possible. The Foundation's Youth Ambassadors (YA) are a bright team of students invested in the bettering of the academic experience. They become members by first filling out an application, then interviewing with the adults who hold positions in the Foundation. Once they are admitted into the YA, they start brainstorming ideas on what the school is lacking, how it could improve, and what they can do to improve it. Simply by being a member, each Youth Ambassador is claiming a leadership role.



Riley competing in the 4x2 Relay at the Army in NYC

But some have more responsibilities than others. A prime example is Riley Elizabeth Haskell, Vice President of the YA. Riley has proven to be the perfect choice for this role time and time again, whether it be from her commitment to her education or her countless ideas to improve the school.

Riley is 16 years old and has been a part of the community since first grade, having moved here from New York City. She has two brothers, Breckan and PJ, a dog named Charley, and a guinea pig named Max. Once they got acclimated to the community, Riley's family continued to make new friendships at the Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club. This is where they keep their boat during the spring months.

Riley's family has relatives all over the country. The cousins closest geographically live on Long Island, others live in New Jersey, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Washington, D.C., and even as far as California. In addition to time spent with extended family during holidays, she also takes trips with her mom's side of the family

to Woodloch Pines in the Pocono Mountains where Riley's family enjoy the family resort and compete in friendly competitions. During the rest of the summer, she spends time with her family out east in Quogue.

Even though junior year is infamous for its challenging nature and Riley will have to focus a lot of her time on school, she is one of those students that skillfully balances academics with outside interests. She is involved in many of the school's activities, including Model United Nations, Pep Club, the Brass Ensemble, and the Harborview newspaper. Riley has not had many opportunities to demonstrate her leadership skills in past years because she was an underclassman; however, she does hold a position on the Student Council as a senator for the class of 2022, and she hopes to eventually hold a leadership position in Model UN and the newspaper. Aside from clubs, she plays multiple sports. Riley plays tennis in the fall season, track and field in the winter season, and golf in the spring season. Tennis is her favorite of all the sports she plays because she really loves her team, and she gets to play it in the summertime.

Besides helping the community with her work on the YA, Riley volunteers her time at North Shore Holiday House, a camp for underprivileged girls, and assists with the school's plays and musicals. In addition to responsibilities, Riley has taken on, she, like all teenagers, needs some time for herself. An interesting hobby of hers is watching debates on YouTube; they could be on any topic.

Riley is a founding member of the Youth Ambassadors, having joined their very first year. In discussing her reason for joining the YA, she quotes, "It gives me a sense of accomplishment and pride knowing that I helped make our school a better academic environment." She is most proud of the YA for their raising \$1,000 during the Dime Gives Back Campaign back in November. If Riley could let the students of Cold Spring Harbor School District know anything about the Foundation's Youth

Ambassadors, it would be that the YA is on the side of the students, and they should voice their ideas if they believe they can make an impact.

Although Riley is a rising junior, she has begun to think about her future. She is interested in a variety of subjects, including politics, current events, history, and English, so she plans on attending a liberal arts school to expand her knowledge of the world.



Riley and her favorite brothers at the beach in Quogue, NY



Colleen, Breckan, PJ, Riley and Pat



Riley's early days with Mom & Dad



Riley, Breckan and PJ in California



Riley with Carley Genser, President of the Cold Spring Harbor Education Foundation's Youth Ambassador Program.



First Day of School, Sophomore Year



Cold Spring Harbor High School Brass Ensemble Performing at the North Shore Holiday House Spring Gala



Cousins at the Cold Spring Harbor Beach Club



PJ, Breckan and Riley skiing in Deer Valley, UT