

Julien Kaykas-Wolff

I build communities one person at a time

St. Vincent de Paul College Preparatory • Petaluma, CA
National Honor Society • California Scholarship Federation • Honor Roll • Class of 2027

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WHO I AM

I love talking to people

Connecting with people is what I enjoy most. I want to make an impact on specific individuals. Rather than trying to change the world, I focus on changing individual perspectives on life and education. I excel at making meaningful impacts on a personal level.

I get to know people deeply through one-on-one conversations. My personal time is centered on friends, family, and teammates. I think lasting change happens through deep connections.

How I show up for people

I typically make a quieter impact when supporting others, but I am consistently present. I work behind the scenes to ensure my friends are positioned for success, and I strive to help everyone perform at their best regardless of their endeavors.

I maintain a strong moral code centered on actions that benefit all parties and create mutually positive outcomes. My kindness and courage to advocate for others guide my decisions.

Standing up when it matters

When my sister needed support coming out to our parents, I stood by her. Even though it wasn't widely accepted, I knew it was right. This reflects my character: I support the people I care about, especially during difficult moments.

I believe in doing what is right even when it is difficult or unpopular. I prioritize sibling relationships despite geographic distance. I take accountability for my actions and their consequences.

What drives my curiosity

I spend hours researching topics that fascinate me. Recently, I have been studying U.S. foreign policy decisions and global relations, including situations in Greenland, Iran, and Latin America. I find it compelling how historical events shape modern society.

I love learning even when there's no grade attached. History is easily the most entertaining thing that humans have ever done. When something interests me, I'll research it for hours without stopping.

HOW I LEAD

Boy Scouts of America – Life Scout

4 years

Student → Co-Leader → Treasurer → Mentor

20

Scouts mentored

\$1,500

Monthly budget managed

- As Troop Treasurer, managed \$1,000-\$1,500 monthly budgets so everyone could focus on learning
- Led 20 scouts (2-3 years younger) at Marin Sierras by teaching, not directing
- Set up systems so teammates could excel
- Multi-day expeditions across Florida Keys, Sierra Nevada, Mount Diablo

All 20 participants reported better understanding of scouting mission through hands-on mentorship, not top-down instruction.

Costa Rica Conservation Team

1 week

Global Leadership Adventures – Liberia, Costa Rica

~200

Sea turtle eggs protected

1,000 lbs

Trash removed (single day)

11

Team members

- Constructed 20 nesting sites protecting ~200 endangered sea turtle eggs
- Removed 1,000 pounds of roadside trash near Liberia in single day
- Assisted local water treatment facility serving surrounding communities
- Collaborated with 11-person team from four regions

From local helper to national coordinator to international conservation.

WHAT YOU CAN SEE ON MY TRANSCRIPT

Advanced Placement & Honors Coursework

Current: All A's

Junior Year: 4 AP Courses + Honors Chemistry

- AP English Language and Culture
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP U.S. History
- AP Precalculus
- Honors Chemistry

Honors track since freshman year: Algebra 2, Geometry, English, World History

Academic recognition

3 years

- National Honor Society
- California Scholarship Federation
- Honor Roll

What I'm exploring in college

Communications • Political Science • Psychology

I'm interested in how people communicate, make decisions, and build communities. Historical patterns and modern governance fascinate me. Long-term, I want a career combining communication strengths with community impact.

I'm planning to take a community college cooking class for life skills.

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE

Long-term commitment

4+ years

- The Salvation Army (4 years) – Distributing essential supplies to community members in need
- Redwood Food Bank (100+ hours) – Warehouse operations supporting families facing food insecurity

"I find fulfillment in helping my community and witnessing the tangible impact of my work on people's lives. Knowing my time makes a meaningful difference is deeply rewarding."

Thanksgiving outreach

Annual tradition

Tenderloin District, San Francisco

40

Meals prepared & distributed

3

Volunteer team

- Prepared and distributed 40 Thanksgiving meals to transition housing residents
- Direct engagement with San Francisco's most vulnerable communities
- Witnessed urban poverty challenges firsthand

What I'm working toward

The affordable housing crisis is one of society's biggest challenges. I want to contribute by building relationships and supporting systemic change.

I want a small, intimate college environment where I can have one-on-one conversations with professors. What excites me is being part of a community with people from all over the world who are there to learn and pursue being better people.

GROWTH & WHAT'S NEXT

The challenge that shaped me most

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted me physically and mentally. I gained substantial weight and lost confidence. Over the past two years, I have dedicated myself to recovery through regular gym attendance, basketball, and an active lifestyle to restore my previous health and confidence. This experience taught me how quickly one can lose ground, but I am returning stronger than before.

Recovering from setbacks requires consistent effort. I am developing my confidence and independence while thriving in competitive environments that challenge me. I strive to learn from mistakes and break negative patterns.

Beyond academics & service

- Point guard/shooting guard on school basketball team (3 years)
- Pop Culture Club member (30+ members)
- Fitness training, pickup basketball, online gaming community
- Prioritizing sibling relationships despite distance

What college means to me

I hope college will help me develop greater independence. I recognize that I rely too heavily on others, and these transition years present an opportunity for growth. I want to graduate with both field-specific expertise and practical life skills, including cooking and household management, while maturing mentally and physically.

I aim to build independence while maintaining my collaborative strengths, learn from mistakes, break negative patterns, and become a better version of myself. Cultivating a strong support network of friends remains a priority.

"The first opportunity is all I need. After that initial chance, there will be no reason not to want me there. I possess many unique qualities: intellectual capability, emotional intelligence, strong communication skills, ability to work independently, and a genuine personality."

Portfolio last updated January 2026