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HHS Senior's Eye On A Dream

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HARRISONBURG - A Harrisonburg High School senior is competing for a spot at the selective U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. For Corey Stader, earning an appointment to the academy would be the next step toward fulfilling a childhood dream.

"I wanted to fly since I was a little kid," said Stader, the 18-year-old son of Douglas and Laura Stader.

After meeting with a recruiter at a college fair, Stader said he "decided to go for it."

He first had to apply to be nominated through the office of either a member of the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate, or by the vice president.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Roanoke, nominated Stader for appointment, according to an announcement released Monday by the congressman's office.

The Air Force Academy makes the final decision on whether Stader is accepted, he said, and out of about 4,000 nominees only 1,200 are accepted.

"It's very competitive, but right now it's basically a waiting game," his mother, Laura, said.

The Staders expect to hear this spring whether Corey was accepted.

He plans to study aeronautical engineering if admitted.

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