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## Liam Ordner, NHS, Named Sunshine State Scholar for Okaloosa County

Liam Ordner, a junior at Niceville High School, has been named the Sunshine State Scholar for Okaloosa County for 2018 and Jack Corbin, a junior at Crestview High School, has been the alternate.

The 2018 Sunshine State Scholars program will be held May 17-18, 2018 in Orlando, Florida. Each of Florida's school districts selects their top 11th grade students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). Each of the scholars, along with their parents, will travel to Orlando for an extraordinary two-day program. This year's program will bring 100 high school STEM scholars together to conduct a "think tank" on tough Florida challenges.

The two-day program culminates with the Commissioner of Education honoring each scholar for their significant academic accomplishments and celebrated for the potential they represent for our communities and state. In addition to bringing together the scholars to be honored by the Commissioner of Education, representatives from Florida's colleges and universities meet with the students and discuss higher education opportunities available to them in Florida.

"Fascinated with two subject areas in particular - nanotechnology and nuclear science - all my work in high school has been aimed towards gaining a greater understanding in the world of physical science simply because I love to do so," said Ordner in his essay. "My current science fair project, for example, is what I saw as a way to improve my own knowledge of nanotechnology by building on a study I had read on cancer detection methods. My discovery of the potential for an accurate, economical blood test for early-stage breast cancer diagnosis was an added, humbling bonus. I see STEM fields as unique career choices that allow for the unprecedented intersection of the two greatest opportunities: advancing knowledge, and, in doing so, making the world a happier, healthier place."

[Read Liam's full essay here!](#)

**Jack Corbin, Crestview High School, Sunshine State Scholar Alternate**



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## Okaloosa County School District

120 Lowery Place  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
Phone (850) 833-3100  
Fax (850) 833-3436



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