

My name is Emily Rose Yang. I'm in 7th grade, and I love archery. This is my first year in archery. I scored 218 points in my first tournament earlier this year and I scored 260 at the State tournament at Champlin High School. My goal is to shoot an average of 280 points next year and keep improving to reach 300.

When I was younger I took dance lessons. At first it was kind of fun, but after a while I lost interest and stopped. I took 2 years of piano lessons, but it wasn't much fun playing the piano by myself. I tried my best, but after 2 years I decided that I didn't want to play the piano anymore. In 5th grade the band teacher came in to my classroom and asked who would like to join band next year. I thought that it might be fun to play in a band with other students so I raised my hand. He gave me a flyer and I signed up. I like being part of a band because I got better every time I practiced playing the flute and I made a bunch of new friends in band. I played the flute in 6th grade and in part of my 7th grade until I moved to a new school. I stopped playing the flute when I changed schools. The new school didn't have a band program. I looked for something that would help me to make new friends and learn new skills. I was interested right away when I first learned that archery was at Open World Learning Community. It was different from anything I have done before. I wanted to join so I asked my mom and she said yes. When I first went to practice I thought that there would not be any girls there, but as it turned out there were many girls and many boys, and that's one part that I like about archery. I also like that our team is made of 6th graders all the way to 12th graders. I think it's so cool how a little 7th grader who is 4 feet 7 inches tall can be on the same team as a big 12 grader. It's even cooler that a 7th grader can compete against a 17 year old 12th grader and sometimes can beat a 12th grader. That 7th grader is me. I like this sport because girls can be just as awesome as boys and it doesn't matter how old or how big you are. You don't have to be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest to be great in this sport. It's all about skill. Archery got easier once I learned my aiming point. I've made lots of friends on the archery team. We have lots of fun shooting against each other and shooting as a team against other teams. Our coach said that this has been one of the best teams he's coached in a long while and that makes me proud. Me and my family have lived in Minnesota since 2005, but we have not explored very much of Minnesota. Because of the archery tournaments, we have driven out to other cities and got to see a lot more of Minnesota.

My goal is to be able to shoot 300 point tournaments, but I think to do that I will need a better bow and a lot more practice time. My entire family is involved in my archery. My Mom, Dad and my little brother and sister watch me shoot at all of the tournaments. My Mom and Dad are thinking that they want to start archery too. My Dad said that maybe this summer we can all shoot a couple of times each week at the archery range. Archery has made a big difference in my life this past year. I made some new friends. I got to see other cities in Minnesota with my family. I can see myself doing this for a long time and getting better at it each year.

