



September 24, 2009

Two Shining Mountain Waldorf School students, **Elizabeth Hutton** and **Naomi Levine**, have been selected as National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. These talented high school seniors were chosen as semifinalists out of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 National Merit program. Levine and Hutton are among 16,000 students who have the opportunity to advance to the finalist level and compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$35,000,000. Finalist scholarships will be awarded in the spring of 2010. Both young women have been Waldorf students since early grade school. Hutton plays varsity volleyball at Shining Mountain and hockey at Monarch High School, is a beekeeper and runs her own goat-milk business. She plans to study biological sciences and hopes to attend Stanford University or the University of Denver.



Elizabeth Hutton (left) and Naomi Levine.

Levine has been Concertmistress of the High Plains Youth Symphony for three years, was principal violinist in the Youth Symphony of the Americas in 2004, and played the role of Anita in Shining Mountain's production of "West Side Story" in the spring of 2009. She works part-time as a research assistant at CU, plans to study environmental engineering and hopes to attend Cornell or Vanderbilt University.

Merit Scholars are selected on the basis of skills, accomplishments and potential to excel in rigorous college studies. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation funds and approximately 500 businesses and educational institutions.

About Shining Mountain Waldorf School

Shining Mountain Waldorf School is one of more than 1,000 Waldorf schools across the globe. Shining Mountain Waldorf School's vibrant teaching methods inspire and engage students by providing them with a deep connection to learning. The school's Preschool through Grade 12 curriculum includes exceptional academics, two foreign languages beginning in first grade, an integrated performing and visual arts program, competitive athletics, service learning and an active community life. Waldorf graduates are highly sought after, consistently gaining admissions to top colleges.