



Jake Robert Boykin

January 28, 1998 - September 23, 2023

Jake Robert Boykin passed away on September 23, 2023 in Tallahassee, Florida when he was hit by a vehicle while cycling. He was deeply loved and his bright smile will be greatly missed.

Jake was born on January 28, 1998 in Las Cruces, New Mexico to Kim and Ken Boykin. From an early age, Jake was an active and inquisitive child, running around and trying to figure out how everything worked. He was very passionate about learning and had to know everything there was to learn about his current obsession whether that was construction trucks, astronomy, photography, weightlifting, chemistry, legos, sports, nutrition, muscle physiology and bikes!

Jake's faith grew at St Paul's United Methodist Church where he participated in church plays, choir, led vacation bible school and helped annually with the angel tree project. In college at Gustavus, he helped lead worship with Proclaim and spent a summer working with the Academy for Faith, Science and Ethics.

Jake loved sports! He participated in soccer, basketball, wrestling, baseball, golf, and football.

He was always trying to find ways to compete, even creating Boykin Olympics for his family. He

was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys and will forever believe that Dez caught it! Jake loved

to be outside whether it be in the back or front yard or the forests at the family cabin.

Jake was part of the first four-year class at Centennial High School in Las Cruces where he

wrote the school fight song, played catcher in baseball and linebacker in football. He lettered

in academics, baseball and football. He was voted all-state linebacker and team co-defensive

MVP his senior year. Jake graduated in 2016.

Jake attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, Minnesota where he received an academic scholarship and majored in chemistry. He continued to play football and was starting middle

linebacker for his last three years. He was a co-captain and received all conference honors

his senior year. He was an active member of the Reds fraternity, Proclaim and SAVE (Student Athlete Volunteer Educators - whose partial focus was awareness of the hazards of drinking and

driving). Jake enjoyed his time in Minnesota, polar vortex and all. Jake graduated with a Bachelor

of Arts in Chemistry in 2020.

Jake went on to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas working on

his Master of Science in the Department of Kinesiology & Sport Management. He conducted research in body composition in the lab of Dr. Grant Tinsley. Jake graduated from Texas Tech in 2022 and had multiple authorships on scientific publications. Jake began working on his PhD at Florida State University in 2022 in the Health and Human Sciences Exercise Physiology program researching muscle physiology in the lab of Dr. Brad Gordon.

It is in Lubbock that Jake found a new passion - cycling. Bored by the lockdowns of the pandemic he purchased an old road bike. He began riding the roads around Lubbock, using his research and his inquisitive mind to increase performance. His first competitive race as a Cat 5 was in the spring of 2022. He moved to Cat 4 in time for the 2022 Tulsa Tough competition. He won the first race at Tulsa and finished 9th on crybaby hill. He moved to Cat 3 shortly before arriving at Florida State and moved up to Cat 2 in 2023. He continued racing and connecting with the cycling community in Tallahassee. Many cyclists took him under their wing and helped Jake join the racing team Velobrew. Jake was always happiest on his bike going full-gas! The faster the better. In May 2023 Jake won the Collegiate Nationals Club Time Trials National Championship competing for Florida State University in

Albuquerque, NM.

Jake was so many things to all who met him. He was always positive and happy. He was fiercely loyal, crazy bright, humble, active and highly competitive. He inspired us to be the best version of ourselves. He gave the very best bear hugs that lasted forever. Jake's smile was infectious and lit up any room he was in. He had a strong faith and we don't doubt for a moment he is cycling all over heaven, exploring and finding the next great race!

Jake is survived by his parents Ken and Kim Boykin and his sister Chaeley Boykin of Irvine, CA, girlfriend Madelyn Simmang of Lubbock, TX, grandparents Ed and Sue Kline of Irvine, CA, grandmother Jane Boykin of Las Cruces, NM, aunts Marty (Patrick) McCray and Krista Kline, uncles Doug (Norene) and Tim (Kelsey) Kline, numerous cousins and extended family. He is preceded in death by his grandparents William E. and Roberta J. Boykin.

The Tallahassee cycling community held a memorial ride on September 28, 2023. A Celebration of Life Service for Jake will be held at 3:00 pm on October 28, 2023 in Las Cruces, NM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. An additional memorial is being planned at Gustavus Adolphus College. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the family for a memorial fund

in Jake's name.

These funds will be dispersed to charities that support cycling safety, training and education and the dangers of drinking and driving. Jake Boykin Memorial Fund. C/O K Boykin, 2 Eucalyptus, Irvine, CA 92612. Or Venmo @JakeBoykinMemorialFund

Dayne Parker of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **28**. 3:00 PM (MT)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
225 W Griggs Ave
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Jake Robert Boykin*.



October 26, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Jake Robert Boykin*.



October 26, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Jake Robert Boykin*.



October 26, 2023 at 09:00 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray* was purchased for the family of *Jake Robert Boykin*.



October 23, 2023 at 10:48 AM

AM

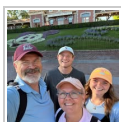
“ Alyssa M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jake Robert Boykin.

Alyssa M. - October 18, 2023 at 12:26 AM

DS

“ Jake did a short stint as a student researcher in my laboratory at Gustavus. Consistent with all the other comments here, all my encounters with Jake were positive. He brought a great smile and great attitude every day, and was a positive influence on everyone around him. The Gustavus family is saddened by his loss - he will be missed.

Dwight Stoll - October 05, 2023 at 09:49 PM



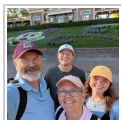
Thank you

Ken Boykin - October 15, 2023 at 10:17 PM

SB

“ Jake was one of my Organic Chemistry students at Gustavus, and I remember him most working in lab. He was always full of questions, and always had a smile on his face...even when things weren't going like they were supposed to. He was an inspiration to others around him. I'm so sorry for this loss, and I will never forget him. My deepest sympathies to his family.

Scott Bur - October 05, 2023 at 04:46 PM



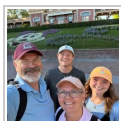
Thank you

Ken Boykin - October 15, 2023 at 10:17 PM

AN

“ Jake was in a year long course with me at Gustavus - Physical Chemistry. Recently I asked alumni to meet virtually with our chemistry students to answer questions about navigating careers and Jake was one of the first people to step up! I was always so proud of him for finding his way on a non-traditional route through a chemistry major and know he would have had great advice (and been a friendly face!) for our current students. Though I'm sure my class wasn't his favorite, Jake always came with a smile and wonder. A year after class was over, he still admitted wonder over the simplest things - like how fast the molecules in the air around us are moving. I can't imagine the pain and heartbreak this family is feeling in losing this wonderful young man - it's beyond words. But know that Jake had an life-long impact on all of us who came into contact with him!

Amanda Nienow - October 05, 2023 at 04:26 PM



Thank you

Ken Boykin - October 15, 2023 at 10:17 PM

MH

“ Melissa H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jake Robert Boykin.

Melissa H. - October 05, 2023 at 01:29 PM

WB

“ Ken, the passing of your son is beyond tragic and heartbreaking and I cried for him. I gathered that he was a remarkable young man whose positive energy bettered his communities. I am sending you and your family strength to get through these trying times.
Wiebke



Wiebke Boeing - October 04, 2023 at 10:08 PM



Thank you, Ken

Ken Boykin - October 10, 2023 at 11:49 AM

JB

“ I have so many precious memories of Jake. One of my favorites to tell is of him and my son Ryan throwing a football around in my front yard when they were about 10 years old. Jake threw the ball and got it stuck in an ocotillo (a large cactus) and then thought it would be a great idea to throw rocks to try and get it down. One of the rocks hit and cracked the window of my elderly neighbor's prized truck. Without consulting us or even giving it a second thought he ran next door and confessed and apologized. The neighbor was so impressed that a young child did the right thing that he didn't make him pay for it and covered the expenses for repair. Jake and Ryan came running inside to share the story with panic on their faces. I was happily surprised they had already handled the situation. He was raised well and knew to do the right thing. I love that my son got to grow up alongside Jake. There was often stories to tell and we cherish every single one!!!

Julie Barton - October 04, 2023 at 08:35 PM



Thank you

Ken Boykin - October 15, 2023 at 10:17 PM

SK

“ *I cry with and for your family. I pray you find peace in these darkest of times. Scott Kuehn and family*

scott kuehn - October 04, 2023 at 08:11 PM