

## Nicole Katherine Tiliakos



Nicole Katherine Tiliakos is a rising junior at New York University - the College of Arts and Sciences - having declared Hellenic Studies on a Modern Greek History and Politics track as her major discipline of study with a minor in Pediatric Psychology. In the fall of 2023, Ms. Tiliakos was placed on the Dean's List at NYU and received the Athanasiades Cultural Foundation Award in addition to several other scholarships through New York University.

Raised in Astoria, Queens, Nicole Katherine has been immersed in the Greek-American community from a young age. She attended the Saint Demetrios School system since pre-school, and graduated from Saint Demetrios High School as the Salutatorian and Outstanding Female Class of 2022. She earned a NY State Regents Diploma (Advanced Designation), a Greek Diploma from the Ministry of Greek Education, recognition from the National Junior Classical League for her academic excellence in Classical Greek, the Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and was a member of the Athenian Chapter of the National Honor Society. She achieved recognition for her exemplary scores on the Greek Proficiency exams (up until the Intermediate II level), which she took in high school. As an Honors student at Saint Demetrios High School, Nicole Katherine was a member of the Student Council which took on the responsibilities of organizing toy drives for the Ronald McDonald House, Midnight Runs for the homeless, and student

breakfasts, with all monetary proceeds going to the Loukoumi Foundation for its St. Jude's Hospital for Children.

Outside of school, Nicole Katherine was a student of modern American dance and Classical Ballet at Cathy's Dance Studio in Long Island City, Queens where she received commendations for her years of performance.

As a college student, Nicole Katherine has been active in various activities and organizations promoting not only her heritage, but also volunteerism and community service. Passionate about traditional Greek folk dancing, which she began at the age of four, Nicole Katherine volunteered first as an assistant and now as a teacher to the Greek Afternoon/Saturday programs at the Hellenic Orthodox Community of Astoria, where this art is taught to the new generations of Greek-American children. Ms. Tiliakos is a member of the Kalymnian Dodecanese Youth Dance Troupe, a member of the AHEPA Maids of Athena (ASTORIA NYMPHS, 119th Chapter), and the NYU Hellenic Heritage Association. During the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing until recently, Nicole Katherine was a member of the digital awareness organization #ICANHELP, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, which focuses on teaching teenagers how to deal with stress and anxiety, limit cyberbullying, and reduce teen suicide.

Beginning Fall of 2023, she has been working part-time as a teaching aide to special needs children at MAKING STRIDES PLLC. She serves as clerical intern at the Greek Ministry of Education office (Greek Consulate).

In the future, Nicole Katherine wishes to pursue a career in child advocacy for those living in marginalized communities.