

Students Shift Focus Towards Summer Shifts LASA Students Spend the Summer Working and Volunteering



graphics by Amelia Coleman

Swimming for a Living

AVANI GANNE | photo editor

Grabbing a bottle of sunscreen and throwing on a swimsuit, junior Gracie Philips heads to the pool — but not for a refreshing break from the Texas heat. Philips decided to spend her summer working as a City of Austin lifeguard at several Austin pools. For Philips, getting a summer job was essential on her path to adjust from life as a high schooler to life as an adult.

“I wanted to get a summer job because I really wanted to be able to not depend on my mom for money anymore,” Philips said. “I thought it would be a good accomplishment, life experience, and practice for when I have to be an adult.”

Even though summer jobs for teens often all offer the same new work experiences for them to acclimate to college and adult life, Philips feels that lifeguarding has its own specific advantages. For her, lifeguarding facilitates an environment in which she is able to network with others from across the city, help others, and have fun.

“I was excited to meet a lot of new people from different high schools and learn how to do CPR and other life saving techniques,” Philips said. “It was also really nice to be able to make sure that people coming to the pool were having fun and being safe.”

In addition to ensuring the safety of the

patrons in the pools Philips worked at, she also learned a lot of skills that she didn't expect to. She learned quickly that customer service and social skills were also essential parts of lifeguarding.

“Lifeguarding has taught me a lot about how to deal with difficult patrons,” Philips said. “It has also taught me how to interact with a boss and other employees.”

New lifeguards go through lengthy training to ensure that they can correctly oversee the safety of patrons. According to Philips, it was all worth it to be able to have the work experience and be able to meet so many great people.

“I initially signed up on the Austin Parks and Recreation website after hearing about it from a lot of my friends,” Philips said. “Then, I did 40 to 50 hours of training over four days, and took a written test at the end of the training process. Even though it was a lot, I'm really glad that I applied and got to meet so many great people while having such a fun yet very sweaty experience.”



FUN IN THE SUN Junior Gracie Philips spent part of the summer by the pool, monitoring patrons, making sure everyone was staying safe. According to Philips, lifeguarding helped her learn valuable lessons about customers and how to interact with a boss and other employees. Photo courtesy of Gracie Philips.



DIVING INTO SUMMER According to Philips, despite the 40 hard hours of training, lifeguarding is worth it for the people she met and the experience she gained. Photo by Avani Ganne.



graphics by Amelia Coleman

Suiting Up to Show LASA's School Spirit

ANNABEL ANDRE | editor-in-chief

As the summer came to an end, students began to come back to school to train and prepare for upcoming sports seasons, including the cheer team and Blue the Raptor, the LASA mascot. Blue was among a plethora of theatrical creatures including cartoonish bears, lions, and tigers gathered at a mascot camp hosted by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA). While the LASA cheerleaders participated in the UCA cheerleading camp practicing stunts and learning about school spirit, Blue was busy finetuning their persona at the mascot camp.

“Mascot camp was a part of the UCA cheer camp that the LASA cheer team attended from the 27th to the 30th of

July at the University of Texas,” Blue said. “There were many other cheer teams there, with some of them having mascots and some not.”

The UCA mascot camp serves as an opportunity for mascots to become more comfortable in their mascot personas and help them become the best representation of school pride, according to the UCA website. Not

only do the mascots learn routines and how to use props, but they participate in activities that develop the mascots' personalities.

“At mascot camp we learned how to use props, how to develop the character of our mascot, did some improv, and just generally learned more about mascot,” Blue said. “We got to interview one of the UT mascots,

participated in some of the cheerleaders performances, and also performed some skits.”

The UCA mascot camp gives high school mascots the opportunity to try out for All-American. All-American is an individual award given to cheerleaders and mascots that display superior skills, leadership, and values according to the UCA website. Blue was able to try out for All-American and was awarded the prestigious title at the end of the camp.

“My favorite part of mascot camp was trying out for All American,” Blue said. “In order to get All-American, mascots had to perform a skit. It was super fun to put together and to perform, and many of the LASA cheerleaders were a part of it as well. Several of the cheerleaders were a massive help in choreographing, and it was super cool when it all came together.”

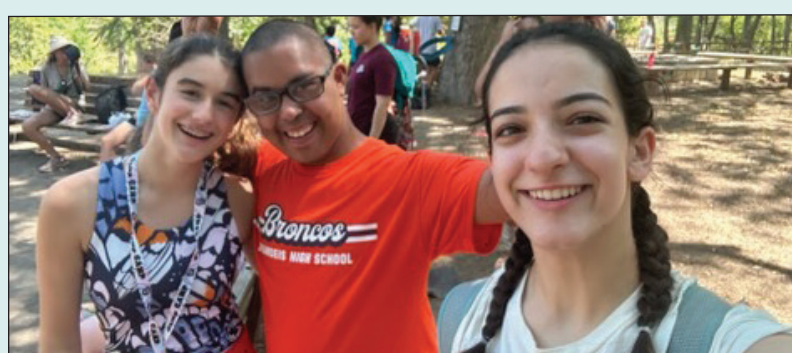
Photo Editor Jolie Grogan contributed to this story.



MASCOT CONDITIONING Over the summer, Blue the Raptor, the LASA mascot, and the cheer team participated in the Universal Cheerleaders Association's (UCA) camp at the University of Texas Austin campus. While there, Blue learned how to use different props, how to develop their mascot persona through improv and skits, and even was awarded the All-American title. Photo courtesy of Blue the Raptor.



graphic by Annabel Andre



CAMP CAMP Senior Maylis Schuppe spent the summer as a volunteer at the Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP). CAMP provides recreational opportunities for individuals with medical conditions and disabilities. Photo courtesy of Maylis Schuppe.

Camping out at Camp CAMP

ANNABEL ANDRE | editor-in-chief

Swimming, nature, and canoeing are generally universal activities when it comes to summer camps, and it's no different at the camp run by the Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP), which provides recreational opportunities for individuals with medical conditions and disabilities. According to CAMP's website, campers often aren't able to engage in activities like archery and horseback riding elsewhere because of the limitations their disabilities or illnesses might provide.

For senior Maylis Schuppe, volunteering at CAMP is an essential part of her summer. As a volunteer, Schuppe is paired up with a camper and assists them with their daily activities throughout the week.

“CAMP is a place where you go for a week and are paired up with someone,” Schuppe said. “You become friends with that person and you also help them with any special needs. You might feed them, bathe them, whatever they need. You also get to do activities with them. You might go canoeing, you may go horseback riding, you might go to the pool.”

According to Schuppe, CAMP is a great place to make connections with volunteers and campers. The 1:1 ratio of camper to staff makes it possible for campers and staff to create a special

bond, which for Schuppe, makes the hard work worth it.

“The best thing I did was with this person I had for a week who loves Miraculous Ladybug,” Schuppe said. “So me and some of the other staff got masks from the show and everyone was asking to take pictures. Whatever is fun for her is fun for me. It makes me happy to see the smile on her face.”

Volunteer work is often very demanding and hands-on at CAMP, according to Schuppe. The camp requires them to complete a week of training before attending camp, and their camp schedules often require them to wake up early and be very attentive.

“It's a lot of hard work but very rewarding,” Schuppe said. “We have to wake up at 7:30, then get ready and get the campers ready and up. We give them their medicines, then do breakfast and activities, then it's lunch. Then we do more activities, have dinner, and do a night time campfire show. We're basically awake from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. most days.”

CAMP is available for summer volunteers from the beginning of the summer to the second week of August. According to Schuppe, making connections and friendships while volunteering made the experience incredibly memorable.

“I think anyone who can work here should,” Schuppe said. “It's an amazing experience different from anything you can typically get. You get to meet so many nice people, both campers and volunteers. I get to meet people I wouldn't get to meet in the outside world because some places may not be accessible for them. I think anyone and everyone should come out and have fun because it's an overall great experience.”

Photo Editor Griffin Beam contributed to this story.



SUMMER FUN CAMP offers many activities for campers to enjoy the summer weather including canoeing, horseback riding, or swimming. These activities help volunteers and campers to bond, which is one of the best parts of volunteering at CAMP, according to Schuppe. Photo courtesy of Maylis Schuppe.