

Cadets team up with Information Technology



The IT help was great and I was glad to help out hundreds if not thousands of students to have access on resources provided by our school in order to better their knowledge. I like helping out people in general, so when the opportunity came, I took it. It was a very fun experience since I got to help people along with my friends that are also in JROTC. I got to learn what it's like to be the IT guy for a couple of days and I liked it. I also found it amusing how Mr. Pariagua (the actual IT guy) checked out the laptop for the students with the quote "Here is your laptop, take care of my laptop, love my laptop, and give my laptop a name". Overall, I loved the experience of helping people in the IT room. Josh Paguinto

Drill Dynamics

Drill Camp was a great experience for me because I got to learn new skills that I wouldn't have been able to learn if I hadn't participated. Before going to Drill Camp, I thought that everyone was going to be strict, however, once I actually went I saw how wrong I was! Of course the instructors had to be strict so we learned what we had to learn in the short amount of time we had, but they also knew how to have fun and make us feel welcomed and better about our skills. I will use the skills I learned from Drill Camp to continuously work on bettering myself, and teach it to the future cadets. I hope I get the opportunity to take part in the drill camp again so I can gain new skills, friends and make great memories. Adrian Tecuapetla



Boys State

Boys State was a lot of fun. I had a great time meeting new people and learning about different points of views on important issues. I made a lot of good friends there that I'm sure I will stay in touch with for years to come. As part of the House of Representatives and Public Health Committee, I spent a lot of time debating issues revolving around healthcare. There were lots of good discussions and we passed many bills revolving around improving the 504 system and expanding the state's mental health facilities. However, my favorite part of the experience was listening to the guest speakers. There was one speaker that I particularly liked who was a member of the CIA. He told us stories about being on a mission in France and how he had to keep his job a secret from his children, even after they were discovered. While I'm sad that it wasn't in person, I hope that the kids next summer will get to have it in person and will get to have an even better time than I did. Christian Olguin

Girls State

The ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) Girls States camp is a statewide leadership camp where female student leaders from all sorts of school organization come together to learn about how our governments and our legislature work. Even though it was virtual this year because of the pandemic, it was still such a blast to get to meet other female student leaders like me from all over the state and get to learn about how all the different cities of Texas operate, and what we all have in common. We played games, had themes for our meetings, and created great friendships. It was such an amazing experience and I'm very thankful for the experience. Sophie Escobar

Cadet Workshop



A year and a half of attending school virtually, also meant a year and a half of not doing a lot of the JROTC activities and practices. Imagine coming back to school to remembering less to not much of what you learned years before. I am glad to have participated in the cadet leadership team training workshop. In the leadership workshop, the instructors helped me refresh my memories. We talked about how females and males are supposed to properly wear their cadet uni-

forms, explained the differences of a squad, platoon, company, and battalion. It was nice and interesting to practice with other cadets from different schools and learn about how they performed their routines. The workshop also played a role in preparing me for this school year, as we returned to our normal JROTC activities. Winnie Chuma

YLC (Youth Leader Conference)

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SFC Madison Collins and C/SGM Joshua De La Fuente were invited to the Military Officers of World Wars Southwest Youth Leadership Conference at A&M at the end of July. There they were given the opportunity to learn new leadership skills to implement in

their Battalion, as well as a chance to connect with other Texas JROTC cadets. During the conference cadets were broken into teams in which they created a mascot, handshake, and chant for team spirit. Teams also discussed Leadership traits, to national issues and economic control. They then were assigned a position in a Mock Trial of the Titanic and presented it to Judge CPT(RET) Richard Stewart Jr. Teams created skits and some individuals displayed their talents at Talent Night where the Judges chose who was #1! The Conference concluded with a Banquet on the last night, with attendees dressed to impress in Class As or Semiformal attire.

Madison Collins

1st Day of School

My experience on the first day of school as a senior was an okay day to say the least. I say it was okay because at some part it was nice going back after being online almost half of the year from 2nd semester of sophomore and junior year. Another nice thing was seeing people that I haven't seen in almost a year because of the pandemic. The day felt super long because we were stuck in advocacy for almost 3 hours but then the classes were really short but we were able to have a good lunch break.

Kalee Barrientos

JLAB Nationals



For the JLAB National competition Christian, Julio, Winnie, Chief, Mr. Rivera, and I traveled to Washington DC. The flight was stress free and Christian and I had fun talking to the flight attendant. When we arrived in DC we met up with the team from Stafford ISD and took the subway to the hotel. After we settled into the hotel, we headed to the Catholic University of America (where the competition was held) for a tour. The Campus was small but had very good architecture with a lot of symbolism. After orientation we headed back

to the hotel, on our way back we stopped at the sketchiest McDonalds I had ever been in. The next day when the competition started, we fought against a school from Georgia, I was nervous and did not know what to expect. We defeated the Georgians and after that I felt relieved and confident. We were on a roll, handing out L's to other schools, but then we acquired an L of our own. We lost to Cumberland High School PA, the loss came as a surprise, not because we were cocky but because it happened so suddenly, they were really fast. The loss only motivated us, to at least get one more win, the win was secured with fast answers. In our final round we went up against an undefeated team!



JLAB Nationals



The team was pretty chill, but it was a stressful round, we were neck and neck the entire time. Unfortunately, we lost to this team. We were really happy with how we did, we only lost twice in seven rounds to undefeated teams. The second day we were happy to find out that we made it to the quarter finals! The first round of the quarter finals we steam rolled the other team. However, in the second round we fought with Cumberland again. Sadly, we lost to them again, but the score was much closer this time. This was the end of the road in the competition for us. For the remaining day and a half, we walked around DC with the team from Stanford and with the Georgian team, It was fun. We visited the World War two memorial, Washington monument, White house, and Capital building. The camaraderie was amazing every night we stayed up playing poker with the team from Georgia and we had great conversations. We left really early on the last day, Julio and I left with about thirty minutes of sleep. The flight back to Houston was easy. When we arrived, needless to say we were all very sleepy, but later the same day we had Cadet workshop to attend. The competition in DC was amazing and a once in a lifetime opportunity, I hope the next JLAB team can make it to Nationals. Thank you Chief and Mr. Rivera!!! - Joshua De La Fuente