

The Spirit of Parker

The impact I have made to the Town of Parker has been through two activities that made up a majority of my high school career and have given me great pride that I could give back in these ways. I have lived in Parker my whole life, participated in Parker Recreation Center sports, Parker Hawks. I attended Challenge to Excellence, Cimarron Middle School and finally, Legend High School. The impacts on me having grown up in Parker are the lessons I've learned working at a local "mom and pop" restaurant, Bagel Stop, and the second is volunteering with the Parker Recreation Center as a boys lacrosse coach.

I have worked at Bagel Stop for two plus years. The opportunity given to me by this local business and the impact it has had on me is immense and I will carry it with me for a lifetime. The owner, Keeden, never lets first responders pay for their meals and this small act of kindness has had a lasting impact on me as a person and I will model this small business's generosity for my lifetime. This especially has impacted me because I am going to Grand Canyon University in the fall for their nursing program.

It started as a plumbing issue at Bagel Stop, yet we still had to bake the bagels that day, but we were unable to be open to the public. I suggested to Keeden that we deliver the bagels to our police, fire stations and other Parker facilities. So, it turned into a day of giving to those around us. Now, whenever we have left over bagels (we bake them fresh every day), I deliver bags to local police, sheriff, fire houses and other local facilities in our town. Everyone is so grateful. I took a bag to the Franktown fire house and they asked, "What did we do to deserve this?" I just said, "What you do every day". The impact that humble statement made on me was profound. It started as a plumbing issue at Bagel Stop, yet we still had to bake the bagels that day. It turned into a day of giving to those around us.

At Bagel Stop we treat our first responders the best in all of Parker. Bringing Bagels to those around us has connected us in ways I never thought could happen. The world needs more giving and support, that's the impact I hope to have left. Although giving away bagels may sound like a weird thing to be proud of, the impact of giving back is something that will always be with me. I had never given back to my community until 2 years ago, now wherever I go I will do it forever.

I also supported my beloved town by volunteering to coach 6-8 year old boys box lacrosse for the Parker Fieldhouse. To graduate from Legend High school, I needed 20 hours of community service, although there are plenty of opportunities to complete this, I wanted it to be something I could enjoy. Looking for options in Parker, I saw the option to be a volunteer coach. Being a coach I had learned more in two months then I thought I could.

Learning how to be patient and the best coach those boys could have was definitely a challenge. I was the only female coach going against men that had been coaching for years. I had been asked by multiple people if I knew what I was doing or if I could even make progress with the boys. By the end of the season they were beating the other 6-8 year old team full of kids that had been playing since they could pick up a stick. I hope this leaves the impact of you can do anything you want to do, I wanted to coach. I wanted to give back to the community around me and the Fieldhouse allowed me to do that very thing. While coaching, I was in school, working, and playing my own sports. I learned how to manage multiple activities at once all while focusing on the moment. I will give back and support the community around me whether it is Parker or somewhere else. I plan to coach in the future, as I have a spot waiting for me at Chaparral High School on the Women's Lacrosse Team. I will take with me all I have learned in my 18 years in Parker, giving back, supporting, and loving.