



# The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



Volume 9, Issue 9

October 2016

**W**elcome to the October 2016 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!! For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about who are your friends and why are you thankful for them. This topic allowed members to

share their thoughts about who are there friends and why are they thankful for them. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this October 2016 edition of *The Noodle!*

### Current Members:

Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Rocky Castro  
Megan Germain  
Ian Horowitz  
Josh Tapia  
Christopher Regan  
Dakota Smoot  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore



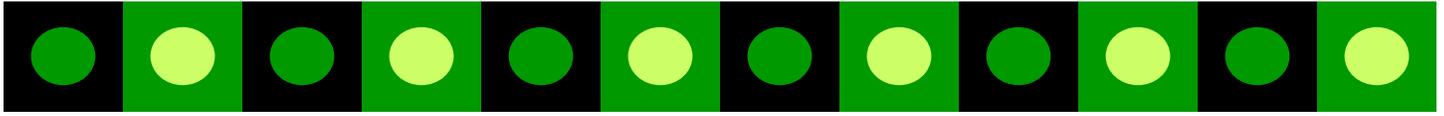




## **Friends!!!!**

I have some really terrific friends. They have been there for me through thick and thin. There have been some really traumatic events in my life and I have always been able to talk to them about my feelings. Some of my friends have been my friends since grade school, and some are more recent. My friends are not only there in troubled times, but in fun times too. We bowl, go to movies, shopping, play music, etc. My family members are also my friends. My sister and I are very close and enjoy spending time together. My nephew and I are very close and like doing things together. Members of my church are also friends. I serve as an altar server on Sundays and enjoy being with them. I volunteer with a class for children preparing to make their first communion and with the youth group. We take field trips that I enjoy. The Youth Council is a very special group to me. I have learned so much from this group. I feel I am very lucky to have so many good friends. I make an effort to be there for them as well.

*By Christina Waldron*



## My Friends!!

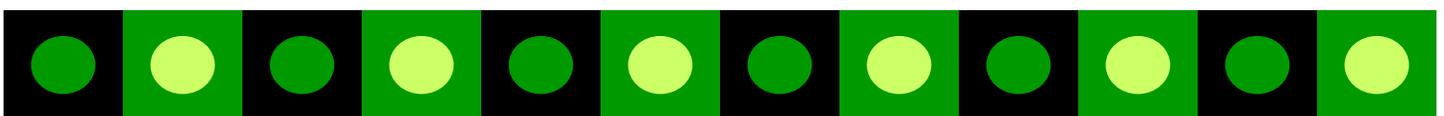
My friends are, of course, the people on the Council, but I also have friends outside of the Council that I am thankful for because they shaped who I am today. Without them I wouldn't be the same person. For example, there's my friend Jason, who I consider to be my "big brother," who taught me my values that I have today: values such as respecting yourself as much as you respect other people. He also taught me that you don't know what other people have been through in their lives, so you do not judge their actions. If there is something they do that you do not agree with, there is a reason for it

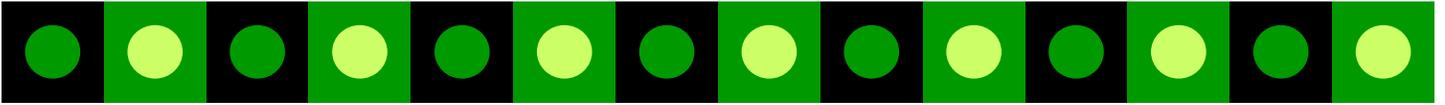
The second person that I am thankful for is my best friend AJ from my elementary and middle school years. He and I were in many of the same classes and were always with each other. We both had wheelchairs and we encouraged each other and sought to help others as well. He taught me the importance of wanting to help people. He and I always felt joy out of making a difference in people's lives.

For a long time after I started High school, I sat by myself because no one wanted to sit with me. Now that I'm a junior, I have found friends that I sit with for lunch and I do not have to sit alone anymore. However, on rare occasions, they cannot eat with me, and so I try to "pass it forward" using the values that AJ and Jason taught me, to make sure that everyone has a chance to feel like they have a friend, too.

Now, although I can't talk about everyone on the Council, there is one person I'd love to give a shout out to. That is our youth advisor Niki. Although I can be a challenge, sometimes, she finds a way to put up with me. You see it takes a special kind of person to be able to have patience with so many different people with different personalities.

*By Serena Wetmore*

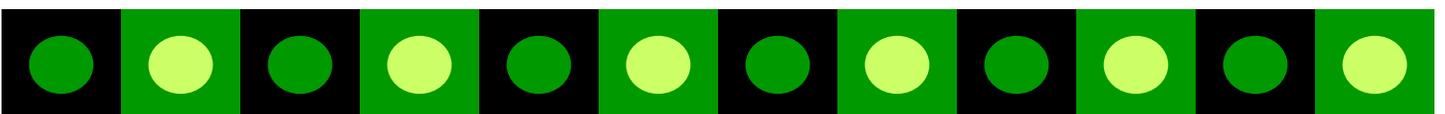


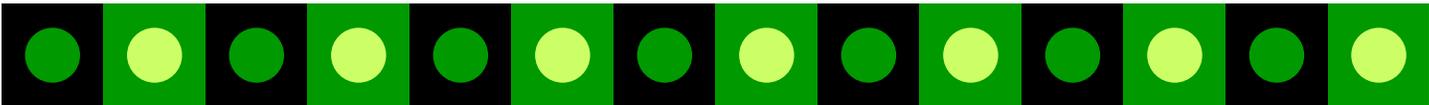


## Who are my True Friends?

My friends are scattered across the Southern United States from Arkansas to Florida. I'm grateful for them. Even when I'm in a bad mood they always have my back when times were tough. My friends and their families are my panacea in life. Never take your friends lightly. They are the best gift of all when you're sad, mad, happy, or even bored, because they are hard to come by and so are true friends. They stick by like a brother or a sister. Never ruin a friendship because you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.

*By: Dakota Smoot*





## How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at [www.floridayouthcouncil.com](http://www.floridayouthcouncil.com). The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100

Tallahassee, FL 32301

