

Plano East Senior High School

Sons of the American Revolution - Texas SAR

What are some of the most significant moments in history? I would argue that the discovery of America is a momentous event, as well as the establishment of our first settlements: Jamestown and Plymouth. Both are the groundwork for what would be, approximately, 500 years of American history. That's exactly what JROTC has done for me; it has laid the groundwork for how to act as an American citizen. JROTC is not just a program, but a place to develop skills you never thought you would obtain. I remember my freshman year, I was intimidated by all the leaders surrounding me; however, I knew that's what I wanted to be one day - a leader. So I worked towards that goal. I obtained the company supply position as a freshman, attended boards and won Cadet of the Year, and became the Academic Team Executive Officer. In my sophomore year, I was selected as Bravo First Sergeant and the Academic Captain, as well as a member of our Physical Training team, and while it was challenging, it was the most impactful year of my life. Now, in my junior year of high school, I am the Charlie Company Commander, Academic Captain, and member of our Physical Training team. Through these years, I've dealt with trial and error, yet I learned more about myself and what it means to be a leader, to be accountable, and to be a responsible, compassionate human being.

My freshman year initiated my drive for academic and personal excellence. I was a member of the Williams High School Drill Team as well as the Band. Balancing JROTC, Drill Team, and Band was difficult in some moments, but it paved the way for the rest of my high school experience. In my sophomore year, I increased my focus on two extracurriculars that I was passionate about and explored new areas of interest. While in JROTC, I obtained those two leadership positions, but I was also the Social President for Drill Team, a member of NHS, Student Council, and Newspaper club, as well as participated in our high school musical production of Grease. My junior year has been mainly academically focused, so I am still a member of NHS, Charlie Company Commander, Academic Captain, and Secretary for our varsity Drill Team. These experiences have taught me valuable life lessons that I will take with me throughout my life. I learned how to manage stress, time, and social life, as well as keep up with school work. Being a good American citizen does not only mean abiding by the laws, but also representing the people of the country positively, and that is exactly what these past years have shaped me into: a better citizen.

Outside of school, I attend a studio dance, volunteer, and join programs to better my future. Going into my sophomore and junior year of high school, I volunteered a week at my church doing service projects around the area to help beautify our community and give back to those in need, as well as volunteer as teachers assistant for our Vacation Bible School. In my sophomore year, I was a religious education teacher assistant and attended youth conferences. In my junior year, I got the opportunity to be a teen juror for the City of

Plano Municipal Court, which has been an incredible experience, and I have volunteered at organizations such as Feed My Starving Children and People Helping People.

JROTC has taught me to be a better citizen of the United States by teaching me about discipline, accountability, integrity, and righteousness. JROTC has taught me how to be a leader, and it has been an important part of my high school career, and I know by extension, my life. All the skills acquired through JROTC have enriched my life and have helped me understand the importance of service, courage, and discipline, all characteristics that should be reflected in a good American citizen.

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