



# The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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**W**elcome to the June 2021 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write about “What do you look forward to this summer?”. This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on this summer and all the fun they will have. 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 edition of *The Noodle*!

## Believe in yourself!!

### Current Members:

■ John Baldino  
■ Shevie Barnes  
■ Derek Carraway  
■ Alexander Gonzalez  
■ Leah Gorman  
■ JJ Humphrey  
■ William Lupella  
■ Michelle Sandiford  
■ Josh Tapia  
■ Christina Waldron  
■ Serena Wetmore  
■ Brandon White  
■ Niki Germain - FYC  
Youth Advisor





## Summer Fun with Chelle

What I am looking forward to this summer is going to Disney with my best friend Olivia. We go every August with our parents and stay in an All-Star hotel room, and we usually stay four nights. The hotel has two swimming pools, an arcade room, a food court, and a mini store. There are three parks we like to go to: Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and Magic Kingdom.

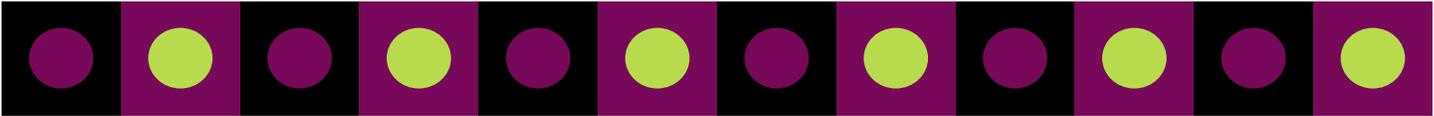
First, when we go to Hollywood Studios, we go to the ticket station and get our tickets. The rides we like to ride at Hollywood Studios are Slinky Dog Dash, Star Tours, Toy Story Mania, Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway, and Indiana Jones. The places we like to eat at are Backlot Express, and Woody's Lunch Box.

Next, we go to Epcot. We go to the ticket station and get our tickets. The rides we like to ride at Epcot are Frozen Ever After, Living with the Land, Mission Space, Soarin', Spaceship Earth, Test Track, and The Seas with Nemo and Friends. Our favorite place we like to eat at is the Coral Reef Restaurant.

Finally, we ride the monorail to Magic Kingdom, go to the ticket station and get our tickets. The rides we like to ride at Magic Kingdom are It's a Small World, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Buzz Lightyear Space Ranger Spin, Jungle Cruise, Mad Tea Party, Peter Pan's Flight, Pirates of the Caribbean, Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, Splash Mountain, The Barnstormer, Haunted Mansion, and The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh.

The rides, shopping, and the food helps us to create memories of fun times together. We enjoy all the special friend time we spend together.

*By Michelle Sandiford*



## Summer Family Fun!

I am looking forward to going to Crested Butte, Colorado, this summer. The mountains are beautiful and full of trees.

My whole family goes every year. I felt sad last year because we did not get to go. I have so much fun there.

We stay at the Adapted Sports Center. It is a center that helps people like me with disabilities participate in sports. They encourage an inclusive environment with family and friends.

There are a lot of activities to choose. My favorite adaptive sport is mountain biking. I love mountain biking because the people help me ride well. It has 4 big fat wheels to ride the trails. My family and I go up and down the mountain. I make sure to wear my seat belt. The workers keep me safe.

*By William Lupella*



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## Time to Breathe

For most people, the summer brings sun, surf, and sand. While my summer will of course bring the same, it also gives me some time to breathe. I work as an online homeschool teacher and individual tutor, which means I work every day all day, for long hours that make me wish I would have taken advantage of having a “bedtime.”

Summer brings more time for fun and even more time for creativity. I get to fix things that I didn't enjoy from this school year and add things to make the new year great. Summer means no waking up at 8 AM and rushing to set up for classes. A sigh of relief and just time to review.

This particular summer The Family Café will be back in action, which makes me



excited to see all of you and my crew (those of us in the Florida Youth Council). I think this event this summer might be the highlight for me. It is really great that we will all be together again, and in my eyes, change is good. I can't wait to air high-five everyone and know that this year my smile will be brighter.

*By: Shevie Barnes*

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## Tripping Through Summer

I am looking forward to traveling this summer. I am going to the beach and several other places. The first journey is to North Georgia to a wonderful horse stable named Welcome Farm. It will be a long weekend of riding horses for me! This will be my second stay at the farm where I will take three or four lessons and spend time with the horses. We will stay at a house located on the ranch. The horses walk in the pastures right by the house and I go out and give them carrots and apples.



The second trip will take me to New Jersey to see my cousins, aunts, and uncles . . . finally! I have not seen any family other than my father, mother, and one cousin since the beginning of the pandemic. We are all vaccinated and I cannot wait for the trip. I will drive up and it will take 15 hours and 46 minutes. I will even see a new member of the family that was born last August. Her name is Indie Moon.

In August, we will have another family get together, but this time it will be in Florida at the beach on St. George Island. I cannot wait to hang out, ride the paddle board, go fishing, and see everyone.



I will also be attending The Annual Family Café in Orlando with the Florida Youth Council. I hope you can all come out to see us!

*By John Howard Baldino*

## Is It Summer Yet?

Summer. Why am I looking forward to it? Where do I begin? Let's start with the unofficial start of summer: Memorial Day weekend. That Saturday, the day after my wife's last day of the year as a teacher, we are headed off for a week vacation at the beach. We are both extremely looking forward to it. Then when we get back from that, we will be back home for about four days and then head to Orlando for The Annual Family Café! I'm really looking forward to that, since last year's was changed to virtual. Then a couple of weeks later we'll be taking a trip to see the wife's family up in Tennessee for her little niece's second birthday. We are really looking forward to that because we don't get to see them too often and my wife really misses getting to see her little niece.



Wow. That was an active June LOL. Thankfully,

July and the rest of the summer will be pretty slow. Of course, I still have my job in-between my trips and activities. Due to the pandemic, I've been working from home, but there has been talk that we're (unfortunately LOL) finally going to be forced to come back to the office to some degree at some point this summer. I guess you could say that's the one thing I'm not really looking forward to this summer LOL. I've enjoyed, for many reasons, being able to work remotely.

Besides all of that, the only other remaining summer plans I have is at the very end of summer. I'll be headed back to Orlando for our Annual FYC Youth Summit. Hope to see you there and hope everyone has a great summer!

*By Derek Carraway*

## Summertime Fun

I am so excited for summer! There are so many things happening then! There's The Family Café conference, the FYC conference and vacation!!

I'm very hopeful that The Annual Family Café and the FYC's Annual Youth Summit will happen in person! I can't wait to help with the conferences. It will be my first time on this side of it! I'm excited to get my black FYC t-shirt and to wear it.

By the time you read this, I will have had my 17<sup>th</sup> birthday! I've asked for a lifetime fishing license for my birthday and I'm hopeful that will happen! I'm looking forward to fishing at all the fun places my dad and brother go fishing, and joining them, of course.

One other thing I look forward to is the possibility of getting together with friends. I just recently got my 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the Pfizer vaccine. And by May when this article comes out, I will be fully vaccinated! I haven't been able to go to church in person, and I really look forward to being able to go back to youth group services and activities.



I'm really trying to patiently wait for my pool to get warmer! Right now it's like swimming in ice cubes, very cold. But soon the water should be warming up and it will feel great to swim!

Mostly I am looking forward to visiting my grandparents and hugging them this summer. My Papa passed away from Covid in January, so I'm greatly missing him. But it will be nice to see my other grandparents and hug them tight! My other grandpa is getting a boat and I can't wait to go fishing with him from the water instead of the land!

*By JJ Humphrey*



## Spring to Summer

I had plans that I wrote down back in the spring of last year and unfortunately, due to our current climate, I couldn't do anything that I wanted to do. I haven't gone to the beach in two years, and I haven't seen my friends from college since last year before the shutdown. Hopefully, once I get fully vaccinated, maybe I can do the things I want. One of my plans was to go back to a movie theater for the summer blockbuster season. I haven't been in a theater since *The Rise of Skywalker* was released. Maybe I'll finally go to the beach. Or maybe I'll spend another summer mostly chilling at home.

*Stay Healthy  
Be Happy*

With that being said, it doesn't bother me if I don't get to do the things I want to do or go to the places I want to go. Heck, when The Annual Family Café conference comes around, it will be the first event that I will go to since when I was the mascot for a professional soccer event back in February of last year. I'm not sure what will happen in the next few months. If I want to go places and maybe have fun over the summer, then I will still be wearing a mask. So here are my summer plans: (1) is to stay as healthy as possible, (2) I'll make sure, as always, to wear a mask in public outings, (3) get plenty of rest to recharge myself after I'm finished with this season, (4) maybe I can finally go to Disney MGM, so I can go to the Star Wars section and maybe I can get a cool lightsaber. Yep, I think that sounds like a plan. I hope everyone stays safe out there and hopefully, we will all see you at The Annual Family Cafe this year.



*By Alex Gonzalez*



## 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!



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