Chapter Name
Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry

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Population Category
15,000-29,999

Name of Project
Y.O.L.O.: You Only Live Once Youth Seminar

Narrative
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Sent from National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
Junior Auxiliary of Byram-Terry’s 2018 Provisional Class started with 16 women who ranged in age from 30 years old to 67 years old. Of the 15 that completed the Provisional Period, all work full time while one is a stay-at-home mother.

This year’s Provisional Project was Y.O.L.O.: You Only Live Once Youth Summit. JABT’s 2018 Provisional Period began June 23, 2018 and lasted until December 23, 2018. In light of the attention needed to the various subject areas and to promote bonding amongst the new class, the Provisional Trainer decided to conduct three (3) separate training classes that lasted 3 hours each. Two social gatherings were also held to promote unity. Training sessions were conducted on June 23rd, July 28th and September 22nd. During the first training session, all 16 members were present. However, during the 2nd and 3rd sessions, only 15 Provisionals attended.

During the first training session, completing a project was discussed. Many ideas were thrown around, until finally the Provisional Class decided upon a youth seminar that would have 3 workshop topics (Distracted Driving Simulator, Healthy Cooking Demonstration and Internet and online gaming safety/Understanding your digital footprint). Once satisfied that the subject matters selected had not been done by JABT previously, the real work began! In order to implement the project, subcommittees were designated and each Provisional member signed up to work on at least one of those subcommittees. They prioritized their work, determined how they wanted the day to look logistically and set about the task of making their Provisional Project a reality.

Many of the Provisional Class have children in the local elementary and middle school. The project was birthed out of their desire to touch on areas they felt were needed to promote safe and healthy living in students that they or their children came in contact with every day.
The Provisional Class, having begun the work on the Provisional Project on June 23rd, held twice-monthly conference calls beginning in July to plan the Provisional Project. These calls lasted one (1) hour each and proved to be very beneficial in the planning process. To promote leadership and to give the ladies ownership of their project, the Provisional Trainer led the first conference call, but accepted volunteers to conduct the remaining calls.

Since JABT does not provide a budget for the Provisional Project, the Provisional Members asked to conduct a fundraiser. Once approved by the chapter, the members determined they would each raise a minimum of $25 and used a $1 pledge sheet to raise the funds. One Provisional also secured a $250 donation from her sister for the project. They were able to raise $668.10 to conduct their project.

JABT’s 2018 Provisional Class was fully invested in their Provisional Project. Every member of the class played a vital role in making the project a reality and they regularly checked in with one another to ensure everyone was doing their part. The only Active Members who participated were the Provisional Trainer and President, offering advice and guidance when needed.

Each Provisional Member spent 12 hours in the planning of the project, with some reporting spending upwards of 15 hours, depending on their assignment. A total of 189 hours was spent by the Provisionals in planning and executing the Y.O.L.O. Youth Summit.

On the day of the event, 21 youth were served. While this wasn’t the number they hoped for (due to the Race for the Cure 5k going on at the same time), the day ended really well and the Provisionals were pleased with the outcome. Many of the youth stated during registration that they would have preferred to be at home in bed or stated during the cooking demonstration that they didn’t like vegetables. In the end, the children loved the veggie tacos and couldn’t stop
eating them and had a ball with the distracted driving simulators. The Provisional’s proudest moment came during closing remarks when several of the youth in attendance stood and remarked how they were glad they came and asked when the next youth seminar would be held! It was in that moment the Provisional Class knew their hard work had paid off and fully understood the impact that Junior Auxiliary could have in the community.

Based on the positive feedback from the youth and the Provisional Class, JABT does plan to adopt this project for the next administrative year.