Chapter Name
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo

Submitted by Name and Email Address
Kate Farabaugh kateotis@me.com

Chapter Address
PO Box 673
Tupelo, MS
38802

Education Chairman
KC Grist

Population Category
30000 and above

Name of Project
W.A.V.E

Cost of Project
2000.00

Number of Active Members Involved
11

Number of Active Chapter Members
91
Number of People Served
21

Description of Need for Project
WAVEs-Need-Determined.pdf

Digital Photo
IMG_1318.JPG

Project Summary
W.A.V.E..pdf

Project Evaluation
WAVE-Evaluation.pdf

Sent from National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
W.A.V.E.'s origin is a bit if a convoluted story. Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo was helping with Cub Scouts every other week. JA members had a difficult time communicating with every elementary school, and an even harder time being able to pull the boys out of class for every scout meeting. No one wanted to give up the special relationships they had built with the boys, though. So, a baby type of W.A.V.E. was born for older boys. Two years later, the present-day W.A.V.E., modeled after our very successful S.H.I.N.E. for girls, came about.
The Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo conducts W.A.V.E., a weeklong summer camp for rising seventh grade boys, each summer. W.A.V.E. stands for Wisdom, Attitude, Virtue, and Enthusiasm, and is a play on Tupelo’s mascot, the Golden Wave. Counselors at the sixth grade school recommend boys for inclusion in the camp who have shown a penchant for leadership among their peers. Those boys are sent a letter inviting them to participate in the camp. W.A.V.E was held July 24 through 27, 2017 at the Police Athletic League (PAL) in Tupelo. New this year, the partnership between Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo and PAL enabled coaches and Tupelo Police Department leaders to be part of the camp, as well. Our goal for W.A.V.E. is to educate these boys at a pretty young age, to become strong, kind, thoughtful men who defend what is right. The education comes in a different form than the standard school manner. The boys meet men who have been through tough life experiences or men who prevent others from tough life experiences.

W.A.V.E. was held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Speakers relating to that night’s theme came and shared experiences with the boys. For Wisdom, Brian Fikes shared his experience with drug addiction that began at the same age as the boys attending W.A.V.E. Also, John Quaka, an agent in the FBI, spoke to the camp and brought night vision goggles and other special operatives items for the boys to hold and experience. For Attitude, members of the Tupelo High School football team came
and spoke to the boys about being positive and working hard. Our football team has been undefeated in the regular season two years in a row, so the high school boys are well known to the younger boys; and, the high school boys have real-life experience with hard-work paying off. Wednesday night was about Virtue and included Dr. Ronny Young, a local OB-GYN, speaking about both puberty and being virtuous young men. He is a great example of this type of man himself and the boys see it. Thursday night was all things Enthusiasm, where Mayor Jason Shelton stopped by to talk about leadership and William Heard, a local artist and quadriplegic, taught the boys how to paint in his unique way of dripping paint onto a canvas. Mr. Heard became an artist because of his paralysis after a car accident involving drunk driving. The boys see the long-lasting after-effects of Mr. Heard’s poor decisions when he was a young man. Our hope is that all of this information will stay with the boys into adulthood.

Each night, the Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo members divided the boys into small groups and played games, shared ideas with them, all to get them talking and sharing with one another. “Minute to Win It” games and lots of basketball were played throughout the week. Each boy received a camp t-shirt, a piece of artwork created during Enthusiasm night, and a group picture with an encouraging Bible verse on the back so they could remember the fun they had learning during W.A.V.E. camp.

Tupelo has a population of 38,000 citizens, with 91 active members in the Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo. Eleven members served on W.A.V.E., with 21 rising seventh grade boys attending the 2017 camp. From planning through implementation of the camp,
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo’s W.A.V.E. committee members worked 260 hours. The camp was featured on WTVA, Tupelo’s NBC/ABC affiliate and in the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal. Junior Auxiliary also spread the word about WAVE’s success on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
Norma DeLong Education Award

W.A.V.E. Evaluation

W.A.V.E. participants spoke very positively about the camp and considered it a valuable experience as they look towards the start of middle school. In fact, at this year’s camp, a group of past W.A.V.E. participants who were going into the ninth grade, came back to talk to the campers about how W.A.V.E. impacted and educated them and helped prepare them for starting middle school. The campers were able to ask the past participants questions about what life would be like at Tupelo Middle School. This turned out to be one of the boys’ favorite nights of the camp. Older boys definitely have an easier time teaching younger boys about tough topics! It is also a fantastic time for Junior Auxiliary members. The members often are able to work with their own sons. Plus, they meet incredible boys whose paths they would not otherwise cross. What a truly special and rare occasion for everyone involved. Often times, Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo is difficult for working women to manage, there simply are not enough hours in a day. This project is ideal because four-day event occurs after regular work hours. Having projects of this nature are important in making our JA of Tupelo inclusive in every way possible.

W.A.V.E.’s impact on the community is vast. Boys at a very impressionable age are being taught leadership and that every decision they make has a consequence. By reaching them as rising seventh graders we are helping prepare them for some of their most important years of school and life. This camp could easily be duplicated in other
communities, as leadership education is vital for everyone, everywhere. W.A.V.E. has a sister program called S.H.I.N.E. for rising seventh grade girls. Both camps will be held again in 2018.