

Alyssa Carson (2017) is a junior at the Baton Rouge International School. She is doing real space training through POSSUM (Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere). "Nasa Blueberry" plans to get her undergraduate degree in astrobiology, continue her education to earn her PhD, and apply to the astronaut core. "Being a Young Hero is an amazing experience. Congratulations to all the new Young Heroes and I hope that they cherish every moment."



Kacie Francois (2017) is a freshman at Lafayette High School, enrolled in their Health Academy, as she is preparing for a career in medicine. Kacie is currently campaigning to be the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Student of the Year, trying to raise \$50,000 for LLS research over a 10-week period. "I have never thought of myself as a hero - just a fighter to live the best life that I can with the challenges I have been given. When people look at me and the things I am doing, I want to continue to set a good example and be a good role model and do all I can with an amazing title."

Addison Patton (2017) is a junior at Mississippi College majoring in psychology and English writing. She is a published author and is currently working on her second novel. Addison is very excited about the opportunity to work with Louisiana State Police as an intern this summer. After earning her bachelor's degree, Addison plans to pursue her master's degree in psychology and creative writing, and hopes to eventually work in law enforcement. "Being chosen as a Young Hero was an incredible honor. I made memories that will last a lifetime."



Daniel Wesley (2017) is a freshman at Baton Rouge Community College and has plans to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He coaches baseball in the Louisiana Blast organization. About Louisiana Young Heroes, Daniel says, "It's more than just an award you can put on your resumé, it's a community and family. Keeping In touch with people and just the potential friends you meet through Young Heroes is just amazing."



To find out more about the Louisiana Young Heroes awards and the recipients, go to lpb.org/heroes.

We hope you will also join us on the Louisiana Young Heroes Facebook page: lpb.org/heroesfb.

YOUNG HEROES

PAST PARTICIPANTS UPDATE 2018



Randi Schamerhorn Gleason (1996) is a Business Coach with Mary Kay Cosmetics as a Senior Pink Cadillac Director. She also volunteers for local and national organizations. "As a child, being a Young Hero gave me the courage to keep striving and keep dreaming."

Robert Vincent (1996) is an attorney and is a member of the Erath City Council. He is in his 16th year as President of the Erath 4th of July Association. Robert is also on the board of the Acadian Museum of Erath, the Erath Community Building Association, and the Erath Housing Authority. "There is no end to the amount of good you can do, if you don't care who gets the credit."



Ashley Barton Autin (1997) is a stay at home mom of three boys, plus she and her husband welcomed a baby girl in January. "Success and careers come and go but my advice to this year's Young Heroes is to always strive be a hero to everyone around you. People are always watching you, even when you don't realize it. You may be the only hero someone else ever sees. I know my little people are watching me. Stay positive and love your life!"

Travis Torrence (1998) is Vice President – Legal of Jiffy Lube International, Inc. and Senior Legal Counsel for Shell Oil. Travis has chaired numerous philanthropic events, including the World AIDS Day Luncheon, the Victory Fund Champagne Brunch, and the Camp For All Gala. "Being a Young Hero was one of the highlights of my childhood and inspired me to dedicate the vast majority of my time to community service, and philanthropy, and service to my profession."



Emily Schmidt Liuzza (2000) is the Director of Marketing for W New Orleans - French Quarter and Le Meridien New Orleans. She is on the board of the French Quarter Business Association, the Southern Public Relations Foundation and the New Orleans chapter of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana, the state president for the Public Relations Association of Louisiana, and an active member of the Junior League of New Orleans. "Being recognized as a Young Hero was one of the greatest experiences and to this day, is an honor that I hold dear to my heart."

Matthew Burroughs (2002) worked as an attorney primarily in child advocacy for six years. He then received a calling to the ministry and attended Perkins School of Theology at SMU. Matthew was one semester away from graduation and serving as a minister in the United Methodist Church when he passed away from a lengthy illness last month. His father said that if he was here, he would tell this year's Young Heroes to "dream big and persevere."



Brittany Parker Clayton (2002) is a full-time actress, having appeared in the 2016 production of "Roots," "Underground" on WGN, and "Claws" on TNT. Brittany has two children and is expecting her third this summer. "Being a Young Hero is one of my greatest accomplishments. It means, 'I can' and with that knowledge I continue to 'do' and serve others."

Jody Keith (2002) works as an administrative assistant and is a coach for competitive card games. He also broadcasts games and tells stories on YouTube. Jody tells this year's Young Heroes, "Thanks for being you. Thanks for helping those that need help. Don't stop being the great people that you are, no matter the adversity."

Cassidy Crews (2011) is a fifth grade teacher at Ball Elementary. She is also involved with the Children's Choir and Praise Team at First Baptist Church in Pineville, plus gives voice lessons. Cassidy will be getting married in June, honeymooning in London. "It means so much to be a part of a legacy of inspirational people. Each day I tell my students to show kindness and compassion to everyone they meet. Young Heroes do that every day."

Jenna Mitchel Smith (2011) is employed at a mental and behavioral health clinic in Slidell. She would like to pursue an education in teaching. Jenna will become a first-time mother sometime this month. To this year's Young Heroes, Jenna says, "Continue to excel and do what your heart desires."

Nathaniel Hearn (2012) is a paralegal and an actor/singer. He plans to move to New York City later this year to follow his passion of entertaining. Nathaniel says to this year's Young Heroes, "Our circumstances and strengths set us apart. Our adversities are our advantages. You are part of a very special group of young people and I am proud of each one of you. Continue to strive for excellence and be the greatness we need in the world."



Gabe Hilliard (2012) graduated from LSU in May 2017. He loves working as a freelance graphic designer. He is also the Communications Coordinator at his church, and mentors college students at the church. Gabe will be getting married in August. "Being a Young Hero is such an honor, mainly because I am able to share that title with so many amazing young people who have done so much to make an impact on their communities. I love getting to hear about each year's new recipients and their amazing stories!"



Henry Futch (2013) is a freshman at the U.S. Naval Academy studying mechanical engineering. He would like to become an officer in either the Navy or Marine Corps and make a career out of service. For Henry, being a Young Hero was "an opportunity to inspire other people to give back to their community, and to strive for a greater society."

Rachel Patteson (2013) is a senior at the University of Missouri and will be attending the University of Kentucky for graduate school. She wants to earn a PhD in Earth and Environmental Science at Cambridge, research climate change, work at NASA, and become a professor. She wants to make a difference in communities impacted by climate change. Rachel is involved in a number of activities including "Wearthwhile," the organization she founded. She advises this year's Young Heroes, "Be involved in the community, in politics, and be that strengthener in this new generation of young people, standing up for what you believe in and for the better rights of others."



Caroline Beard (2014) is a junior at Alexandria Senior High School and plans to attend Louisiana Tech University to major in pharmacy and accounting. She is still very involved in fundraising for St. Jude Medical Center, as well as church and school activities. About Louisiana Young Heroes Day, Caroline says, "It was a great time to meet other young people that are doing great things even though having life challenges."

Olivia Castelluccio (2015) is a sophomore with a 4.2 GPA. She is involved in the Spanish Club, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, and Liturgy Committee. Olivia is also an altar server for her parish and a volunteer for Cancer Services. She would like to be a pharmacist or an oncologist at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "Being a Young Hero has made me want to go beyond my limits in school and in service."



Hannah Jolivette (2015) is a sophomore at McNeese State University where she is studying theater. She would like to become a voice actress and entertain people. Hannah still makes blankets and donates them to those in need. "It still feels surreal to me that I'm considered a Young Hero but it gives me great honor to be one."



Sean Noel (2015) is a sophomore at St. Paul's School in Covington. He is active on the cross country and track teams, specializing in long distance. Sean is a member of Lasallian Youth Leaders, AFROTC, and will be achieving his Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts this year. His five charities, "Sean's Factor", "Warm Hearts", "St. Tammany Remembers", "Honor," and "Stand Up and Stop It!" are still very active." To this year's class of Young Heroes, Sean says, "Enjoy the day and festivities. It can be a bit overwhelming, but this is your time to shine. Maintain contact with your fellow honorees and get to know the mentors at LPB and the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge - they can be great resources in your future and in your cause!"

Katie LeBlanc (2016) is a sophomore at Southeastern Louisiana University. She volunteers at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, plays tennis, and helps with the St. Patrick Catholic Church youth group, plus the Geaux strong swim program during the summer. Katie wants to become a child-life specialist and work for the new OLOL Children's Hospital. "My advice is don't let anyone say you can't do something because there is always a way to do anything."

