

Lauren Breazeale's volunteer activities as a student at Texas A&M University

Throughout my time as a student, I volunteered at a variety of events. I'll go ahead and name them and give a quick summary of what each event entailed for me individually.

- For the Down Syndrome Association of Brazos Valley, I helped them prepare for events such as the Buddy Walk, created informational signs, and monitored the games during the day of their events.
- At Leaps for Autism, I assisted with set up, clean up, monitored games, and watched over the children in attendance.
- I managed Angel Tree booths to sign people up to adopt an angel and coordinate the adoption of several angels by Aggie Emeralds.
- At Special Olympics, I monitored the olympic games, announced winners, and awarded participants with medals.
- I served as the team captain of Aggie Emeralds for Relay for Life, where I had to attend captain meetings, coordinate a team fundraiser, as well as fundraise individually.
- I volunteered with Salvation Army by Ringing the Bell at different locations during the holiday seasons.
- At Big Event, I was the team leader and site leader where I coordinated carpools and helped members of the BCS community with yardwork, painting, cleaning, and general house maintenance.
- I volunteered at BUILD, another TAMU organization that turns shipping containers into medical offices that are shipped around the world. I helped with the cleaning, painting, and construction of these offices.
- I was heavily involved with the Brazos Valley Food Bank. I usually volunteered here at least once a month where I helped sort food, create food boxes/bags, pick vegetables, and break down boxes.

For each of these events, I was also in charge of coordinating Aggie Emeralds involvement, which included reaching out to the leaders of each organization in charge of the events, getting our members signed up, keeping track of different shift times and ensuring attendance, and attending every event myself. Being the liaison between Emeralds and our community was a constant job and I was always researching, communicating, and keeping track of our members involvement. I would work with 1-2 other people to help coordinate that involvement and would also keep the other 11 board members of Emeralds updated about each event. As a whole, I would say Aggie Emeralds was responsible for 750 collective service hours per semester. We sorted over 6000 meals, packed hundreds of food boxes/packages, and packed hundreds of pounds of food.

Most importantly, I helped establish a partnership with the BEE Community. At the time of my nomination (January/February of 2020), we were going to the BEE Community twice a week where we would play a different game or activity with the artisans. I helped coordinate member sign ups and planned the games/activities. As of the beginning of last year, the BEE Community had seven artisans along with several full time staff members and volunteers, however I know they have more artisans now.

I estimate that I dedicated about 500 hours to Aggie Emeralds and am so proud of all we were able to accomplish. I worked incredibly hard to ensure that as an organization, we were representing not only ourselves, but our university well. I loved getting to volunteer and encourage other people to volunteer as well.

Lauren Breazeale