

# Say "HELLO" to our 2024 PlayZone Team

As day camp quickly approaches, our staff is eagerly preparing to meet our campers.

**"Laughing Lexi"**, is a graduate of Red Land HS and plans to attend Waynesburg University majoring in Forensic Biology. She plans to graduate with a BS in 2028 and then return for her master's degree in Criminal Investigation. Lexi had a blast working as a Summer Blast camp counselor last summer for WSRec! This summer, she looks forward to seeing the campers come out of their shells and grow in confidence in all the activities as they gain familiarity with their surroundings.

## Fun Facts about Lexi:

I love to play Softball and Pickleball, but my #1 team is the Kansas City Chiefs because of Taylor Swift's boyfriend!

In my free time, I enjoy reading, running, working out, and playing with all of my pets.



- My Mom is my hero. She made a point to always show her love and support to me and never let her life impact her ability to be at any event for me. She is also just a cool lady.
- If I could eat only one thing for the rest of my life, I would go with Pasta, there are so many variations of it! Especially Mac & Cheese.
- My 4-year-old Golden Doodle is named Landon. He is really energetic and fluffy. My family also rescued a cat, Nala. We kept one of her kittens, Keven, who is a menace to society 😞

**More fun fact** - I have authored (2) scientific research projects in HS! They are in partnership with Penn State CSATS and Students Modeling A Research Topic.

**Did you know** . . . The coolest thing that happened to me this year was placing 5<sup>th</sup> in (2) events in my Science Olympiad tournament. I placed with some of my closest friends in Scrambler (a physics car) and Anatomy and Physiology (the body and its processes)!

**"Ambitious Ashlyn"**, is a graduate of Red Land HS and finished her Freshman year at West Chester University where she will major in Early Elementary. Ashlyn looks forward to seeing the growth of the campers throughout the summer.

## Fun Facts about Ashlyn:



- I enjoy playing soccer the most. My #1 sports team is Penn State because my Dad loves Penn State, and I grew up watching them.
- In my free time, I like to read, crochet, or just spend time with friends and family. I also enjoy spending time in nature.
- My favorite food is pizza because there are so many options for toppings.
- My Hero/Role Model is my Grandma. She has inspired me because she always has a positive outlook on life and is supportive and caring to everyone she meets.

**Fun fact** - I have (4) pets. Two dogs, Ace, and Cooper, who is always full of energy and loves to play. I have a cat named Vivian, and a cat named Mia, that my Dad rescued.

**Did you know** . . . I started crocheting a year ago and now I love to crochet a lot.

**"Daring Darren"**, graduated this year from East Stroudsburg University where he majored in Early Childhood Education. He plans to take a position as a teacher this coming Fall. Darren is returning to PlayZone for his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as counselor! Darren looks forward to reconnecting with campers from previous summers as well as meeting all the new first year campers! In his free time Darren likes to jog, take long walks, and play basketball.

### Fun Facts about Darren:



- My favorite animal is the giraffe because of how majestic and gentle they are.
- My role model is my co-op teacher, Mrs. Dancho. She taught me how to be an effective educator and treat each child with respect and love.
- The Philadelphia Phillies is my favorite team because I like going to the games and watching Bryce Harper.

**More fun fact** - The best thing that happened to me this past year was graduating college and becoming certified as a teacher.

**Did you know** . . . I love eating Chicken Fingers!

**"Joyful Josh"**, a graduate of West Shore Christian Academy, now attending Bloomsburg University, majoring in Sports Management. Josh plans to continue his education with a master's degree in Sports Management. Josh has previous counselor experience from summers at Messiah College Soccer Camp and Keystone Soccer Camp. This summer he is looking forward to having a positive impact in the lives of our PlayZone campers.

### Fun Facts about Josh:



- I like to play basketball the most, but I also enjoy soccer. My favorite NBA team is the Lakers because my favorite player is Lebron James!
- In my free time, I have always enjoyed being outside in the summer playing sports and fishing. I also like to hang out with my friends and family.
- My role model is my father. He is the hardest worker that I know. He has always believed in me and helped me to get where I am today.
- I have a golden retriever. He is the most energetic dog that I have ever met. He loves getting attention and naps 😊

**More fun fact** - I can do a backflip!

**Did you know** ... I had the privilege to work at multiple summer camps this past year. The experiences that I gained from the interactions with the campers is something that I am very thankful for.

**"Super Samantha"**, this coming Fall, Samantha will be a Junior at the University of Alabama, majoring in Elementary Education. She hopes to become an Elementary Teacher. Samantha is looking forward to learning new things as a new staff member this summer.

### Fun Facts about Sam:



- My favorite sport is Lacrosse and watching Alabama football!
- My role model is my father because he works hard and is super friendly.
- In my free time, I like to draw, paint, and spend time with my friends and family.
- I have 2 dogs, a yellow Lab named Crimson, and a chocolate Lab named Dixie.

**More fun fact** - I am the youngest of 4. All attended the University of Alabama.

**Did you know** . . . the best thing to happen to me this year was making the Dean's list for the past 2 years!

**"Zippy Zach"**, just graduated from Juniata College, majoring in Museum Studies, History and Art History. Zach will be attending graduate school at George Washington University. This will be Zach's 9<sup>th</sup> year with PlayZone! From camper, to LIT, volunteer for 3 years, full-time counselor for 3, now 4 years! Glad to have you back Zach. He is looking forward to having fun with the campers, going on fun field trips, and seeing the kids who are beginner swimmers improve their skills over the summer!

### **Fun Facts about Zach:**



- *My parents are my role models. They've always told me to pursue my passions, and I have followed their advice.*
- *In my free time, I like to read, write, play the violin, and spend time with my family and friends.*
- *I've always like Hockey. I like the fast pace and skills. Hershey Bears are my favorite.*
- *I could eat Mashed Potatoes forever. Yum!*
- *I have a very, very fat cat named Aslan. We adopted him in 2020.*

*More fun fact - I lived abroad in France studying for 5 months in 2022.*

**"Patient Parker"**, finished his freshman year at Lebanon Valley College, studying Secondary Education. Parker plans to work as a High School teacher after graduation. Parker has had experience working with students previously at a pre-school. He looks forward to seeing the campers grow and develop into stronger kids over the summer.

### **Fun Facts about Parker:**



- *My role models are my parents. They always push me to strive for greatness no matter what happens in my life.*
- *If I could only eat one food, I would pick pasta. It's a favorite!*
- *I have a Vizsla dog. He is my childhood dog, and I love spending time with him.*

*More fun fact - I love collecting playing cards, Baseball, Football and Pokémon cards.*

*Did you know . . . Also known as Sporty Parker, I play both football and baseball at college and they are my favorite sports. I wasn't sure if I could manage to play both sports, but I worked hard and did it!*

**"Awesome Abby"**, currently attends Penn State University, majoring in Biobehavioral Health. Abby plans to continue her education at Physician Assistant School. Abby is looking forward to the outdoor activities where the kids can learn new, exciting games and have fun.

### **Fun Facts about Abby:**



- *My favorite sport is Soccer - the U.S. Women's National Team because I have played soccer all my life and have always admired those girls.*
- *My hero is my Mom. She has taught me everything I know and encouraged me all my life.*
- *In my free time, I like to read, do arts and crafts, workout, listen to music, spend time with friends/family, go to the movies, shop, and bake (if I can find the time 😊)*

*More fun fact - I love to scuba dive and snorkel*

**"Majestic Meghan"**, is returning for her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as PlayZone counselor. She currently attends Penn State University where she is studying Secondary Education with a focus in Biology. Meghan plans to teach HS Biology and pursue higher education. As a PlayZone counselor, Meghan looks forward to seeing the kids grow and have fun this summer. She loves experiencing the campers' making friends and just being themselves.

### Fun Facts about Meghan:



- I love to play volleyball & basketball. My favorite sport to watch is PSU football!
- In my free time, I like to go shopping, swimming and cook.
- I love Cheeseburgers & Fries.
- I am most proud of achieving the Dean's List last semester!
- My hero is my Grammy. She taught me how to sew, draw, bake, and paint. She always pushes me to be the best version of myself.

**Fun fact** - I love to collect stuffed animals. I have over 20!

**Did you know . . .** My favorite animal is an ostrich because they are awkward, cute and can run really fast.