

Yeileen Barrera

When I stop to think about the past years that I have been in crime stoppers, I see how much I have learned and the moments that have stood out to me. Choosing to be involved in my student crime stoppers was an amazing choice. I enjoy volunteering with the program, and I would have to say that the winter season is my favorite part of crime stoppers, because that is when the wonderful Blue Santa comes out and we get to be his little elf helpers. For the Blue Santa project we get to adopt families for christmas and help by gifting them their christmas wish list. But the best part is getting to go with Blue Santa to meet these families and seeing their faces light up from the surprise that he has brought them. It's an amazing experience that I am happy to have with me.

Being in the crime stoppers program has also given me many opportunities to travel with them. I have been to two conferences so far and both have been exciting and eye opening. During these conferences we have sessions with guest speakers to talk to us about many different subjects involved with crime stoppers. Some examples of topics I've been able to hear about were, driving safety, personal safety, forensic science, forensic hypnosis, and etc... During the driving safety class we learned about the different charges of drunk driving. In the personal safety class I learned about Risk reduction strategies, and just about different ways we could protect ourselves. I was able to learn more about different studies and things that go into helping solve many cases. I took notes during these presentations and I can share them with my family and friends to inform them too.

These events have allowed me to meet people from all over Texas, and it's amazing to be able to talk to my peers and interact with them. I am now a senior in high school and have been in crime stoppers since my freshman year. It has felt like so little time, but I've enjoyed every moment being in the Crime Stoppers program.