

A Big Change

Moving from a bigger program to a smaller program can be a big change for someone. I first started crime stoppers at Paris High School my freshman year with around twenty members then later moved my sophomore year to Chisum which had about half that. With Chisum's program being smaller than what I was used to, it was very different. They did meetings and fundraising differently. They even did school trips that everybody was able to go on. One of the major changes was how they recruited people to join in Paris. We didn't do too much recruiting. We had some social media pages, but we didn't go out and talk to people. At Chisum, since it's a smaller school it was easier to talk to people one on one about what the crime stoppers program is and does. This year we started off and still don't have a lot of members since the majority of our group graduated, but I've had amazing opportunities and experiences talking to students about all the great benefits this program has to offer for them and others. Just talking to some of the students has them thinking about joining or just wanting to help with tips. Another big factor that was different was our fundraising. In Paris, we did concession stands at the basketball games to raise money for our program, while at Chisum we brainstormed what companies we could get to sponsor us. By making shirts and having them buy a spot on the back of the shirt. We try to do a lot more volunteer work by offering to help with anything like working at the rodeo. It also helped me run for ambassador since there wasn't anyone else running at my school. I wasn't as nervous and had more support from my friends in Paris, so I had a lot of people encouraging me and helping me practice for my interview. Moving to a smaller program was a big change and took some getting used to, but ultimately helped me more in the crime stoppers program.