

## Teen's volunteer efforts lead to camp scholarship

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By Jill E. Sheetz  
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**Amity Township, PA** - Taylor Dallas, 14, a freshman at Daniel Boone High School, has something to cheer about. Taylor, daughter of Amy Dallas, both of Amity Township, will attend CXE Cheer Camp in New York for one week in July on a full scholarship.

A soccer, football, wrestling and basketball cheerleader at the middle school level this past school year, Taylor will continue to cheer for soccer and wrestling on the high school junior varsity squad.

"She started cheering when she was in second grade with Blazer Midget football," Amy said. "As soon as we could, we signed her up, and she's been doing it ever since then."

Taylor has been a volunteer coach for Blazer Midget, a squad for girls in elementary school, for the past two years. Her dedication to the young girls and role model behavior is what prompted Matt Schramm, Blazer Midget Football cheerleading commissioner, to nominate Taylor for the scholarship.

"She's well-deserving of it," Schramm said. "She's such a modest kid and such a good kid."

On a typical school day after classes end, Taylor attends cheer practice for her own squad for a few hours. She then goes home briefly for dinner and to do schoolwork, but she returns for another couple of hours in the evening to coach the younger girls.

"I like making up the routines," Taylor said. "It's fun to teach it to them and see what things they can do."

Schramm said Taylor gives a lot of attention to the younger girls and inspires them to develop their skills and character.

"She just loves to teach kids," Schramm said. "I can't say enough positive things about her. She choreographs their whole routines. She teaches them all their cheers and all their stunts, and she teaches them how to be good kids."

Schramm wanted the scholarship to be a surprise for Taylor, so he contacted Amy and Taylor's coaches and, with their help, he filled out and submitted the necessary paperwork.

He said Taylor keeps up with her own cheering and earns high honors in school.

"She does it all without any hesitation, and when she does it, she's very inspiring for these little girls," he said, adding Taylor is very successful academically and is an honor student.

After Schramm was notified that Taylor had been chosen for the scholarship, he started to form a plan of how to surprise her with the news. He and members from the Blazer Midget squad arranged to tell Taylor at a local ice cream shop. Amy took Taylor to meet them.

"I was so happy because I've been wanting to go to camp for a while and I had no idea," Taylor said. "It was so surprising."

At camp, Taylor will build on her skills and learn more advanced stunting maneuvers. In the process, she'll be learning how to teach these new moves to her peers and the younger girls, Schramm said. Several private

learning how to teach these new moves to her peers and the younger girls, Schramm said. Several private lessons are included with the scholarship, and she'll have some free time to do other camp activities.

Taylor's sister, Olivia Dallas, 12, a seventh-grader in the Daniel Boone School District and, and Taylor's friend, Caitlyn Rathgeb, 15, a sophomore at Daniel Boone where she is a varsity cheerleader, also will attend CXE Cheer Camp.

Amy said Olivia will start volunteering with the Blazer Midget squad this fall.

"I think it has given them a lot of confidence standing up in front of people and performing," Amy said of how cheerleading has helped her daughters grow.

Contact Jill E. Sheetz: 610-371-5077 or [jsheetz@readingeagle.com](mailto:jsheetz@readingeagle.com).



*Courtesy of Amy Dallas*

**The Blazer Midget Football Mites cheerleading squad after winning first place in the 2011 BICYCL cheerleading competition. Taylor Dallas is in the back row holding the large trophy. The coaches are, from left, Sue Engle, Anita Slobodin and Justine Barrales.**