

HMS student shares with Kiwanis summer leadership experience



Ryleigh Salmon

Kiwanis Club

Henderson Middle School student Sydni Baxter visited the Kiwanis Club Tuesday to show pictures and tell about her weeklong experience with the Lone Star Leadership Academy in Austin and San Antonio.

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By Ryleigh Salmon

Thirteen-year-old Sydni Baxter was selected as one of about 20 students from Texas to travel to Austin and San Antonio to participate in the 2015 Lone Star Leadership Academy camp.

Baxter visited the Kiwanis Club, of which her grandmother Cassandra Baxter is a member, to talk about her trip and thank them for sponsoring her. "I was nominated by my teacher to go on the trip based on my leadership skills, my grade point average, which is 95, and my behavior," Sydni Baxter said to Kiwanians. The purpose of the trip, which is sponsored by nonprofit Education in Action, is to empower young people to be informed and active leaders within their communities. Baxter said they traveled to Keller where her family dropped her off. Then she and the group traveled to Wimberley, which is about halfway between San Antonio and Austin, where they stayed. During the trip, Baxter and the group visited the Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Texas Culture Museum at the University of Texas, the Alamo, Texas State Cemetery, the Texas State Capitol and other places. While at the Capitol, Baxter said the group met with state Sen. Kevin Eltife's staff, toured the courts and sat in the Supreme Court chairs. Her group also got to visit a few parks and engage in team building exercises. At one point point, the group split up into teams. The teams were given a piece of yarn and were instructed to twist it as tight as they could to show that no matter how they tried, they could not break the yarn. "You can eventually do anything by yourself," Baxter said, "but you are so much stronger as a team. "Hopefully I will come back next years with more stories and pictures."