

Kaylee Champions the Mission at Champ's Heart

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Timeless Youth Philanthropist 2024

Kaylee Wilson

Out of the more than 300 volunteers at Champ's Heart, Kaylee Wilson stands out. She's put in countless hours at the organization dedicated to connecting people with the healing power of horses.

As Lori Johnson, the Event Coordinator for Champ's Heart, said, "Kaylee is an amazing volunteer. She is well-rounded, a great listener, a great worker, and a great partner for the children at Champ's Heart. She is the youngest blue hat [coach] at the barn, and she outworks and outdoes the adults."

For her high school senior project, this year's Timeless Youth Philanthropist went above and beyond once again: Kaylee conceptualized, created, and organized a Champ's Heart rodeo. It took place during the Warbonnet Roundup and Kaylee created events for Champ's Heart kids that they could safely accomplish. 53 kids were involved in events including barrel racing, buggy racing, and a boot game.

In her nomination of Kaylee, Lori shared more about the incredible impact Kaylee made with the rodeo:

"Kaylee involved so many children with disabilities that would have never been able to be in a rodeo. There was a great announcer, announcing every child's name over the loudspeakers. The excitement was out of this world. It was organized and smooth. Kaylee thought of every little thing. She got volunteers to be there and they all knew what their job was. Parents got to see their children perform in a real rodeo arena. There were so many smiles all around."

Kaylee's accomplishment with the rodeo was a very huge undertaking. It took months of planning, phone calls, practice, and hard work. She is an outstanding young lady with hundreds of volunteer hours. She did something huge with the rodeo."



What led you to start volunteering with Champ's Heart?

Kaylee: *I've loved horses for a long time, but didn't have a way to work with them. I started looking up places to do that. Champ's Heart kept popping up. I fell in love with it. The kids, the horses, and the work.*

How did it feel to learn you'd won the Timeless Youth Philanthropist award?

Kaylee: *I was pretty speechless. It was a really big surprise. I didn't know any of it was coming. It was really cool.*

Lori got to deliver the news about the award to Kaylee on a special day: Kaylee's birthday. Talk about a happy birthday surprise!

Kaylee also spoke about the impact Champ's Heart has had on her. "I've learned a lot through it, some good life skills. I'm seeing where the hard work that you put in goes. I think it's a huge boost for the future."

Volunteering with Champ's Heart has helped Kaylee see new possibilities for her future. She's always been interested in animal science, and now she knows there are many different branches that interest could take.

Kaylee's parents have noticed the impact Champ's Heart has had on their daughter as well. Her mom, Lacey, shared that "The worries she had earlier in the day at school are minimized and her opportunity to see [kids] smiling despite their challenges has helped her have a perspective that every teenager could benefit from. I think it's helped her not take for granted what good things are, and just love life."



Kaylee's dad, Brad, added, "Kaylee's learned life lessons at her age that 40 and 50-year-old adults still haven't, me probably being one of them. I've watched her grow so much just from her interactions with people like Lori at Champ's. It was a big part of her life, but it's become who she is, too."

of this girl. She's going to set the world on fire. She's going to make the world a better place. I'm a better person because of her."

Congratulations to Kaylee and thank you for all you do for Champ's Heart!



Written by: Sonya Feibert

Sonya is a writer living in Boise, Idaho. She loves hiking in the foothills with her family and teaching and performing improv. [Learn more](#)

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6 Comments

GRANDMA BOWDEN 11/1/2024 03:05:00 pm

KAYLEE COMES FROM ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL FAMILIOES I HAVE EVER SEEN AND I DON'T JUST SAY THAT BECAUSE I AM HER GRANSMA..THE FAMILY HAS BEEN SO TIGHT LACY AND BRYCE ARE SUCH GOOD PARENTS AND IT SHOWS IN THE CHILDREN WHEN SHE STARTED THERE I WAS TOLD HOW MUCH SHE LOVES BEEN THERE WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE HORES..WHAT AN HONOR TO RECIEVE THAT TROPHY.. MUCH LOVE

Reply

Audrey Rossi 11/1/2024 09:38:59 pm

As a volunteer at Champs Heart ❤️, seeing Kaylee recognized for her hard work and dedication is well deserved Kaylee is kind, loving, generous, and her heart shines and the kids, parents, horses and volunteers benefit from her light.

Reply

Perry Bugbee 11/2/2024 08:53:22 am

As a parent of four of those children that Kaylee has worked with at Champs Heart, I can second all of the positive comments that have been shared about her. Kaylee is a special person. She has helped my oldest daughter feel better and comfortable when it comes to being around and working with horses. She is very patient with the children and always seems to have a smile on her face. You can tell that she was raised right. Congratulations on this award Kaylee. It's well deserved.

Reply

In all my years (I'm long retired) I've met very few people, especially young ones, who are dedicated to a cause like Kaylee is to Champs Heart. As The youngest blue cap leader at Champs, she has demonstrated many times over what a dedicated leader looks like. I frequently go to her to ask advice about our horses. I don't remember ever meeting a girl her age with the maturity and leadership ability that she constantly demonstrates. Watch this young lady, she has the ability to help change the world. She above others deserves this recognition. You Go Girl! Ed Hahn, a member of Champ's Heart Emilie's Angels

[Reply](#)

Private 11/8/2024 09:44:43 pm

I've known Kaylee since she was an infant, and you couldn't find a more deserving girl. She's awesome! As are her parents, Lacy and Bryce (not Brad).

[Reply](#)

Lori Johnson 3/4/2025 03:12:51 pm

This young lady is going to change the world. She is a blessing for all that get to experience her. She has made me a better person.

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