
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media
Contact: Theodora Anderson
Community Relations
Waukegan Park District
(847) 360-4726
tanderson@waukeganparks.org
www.waukeganparks.org

Waukegan, IL (August 26, 2013) – Darrand Scaife, age 14, received a special honor from the Jeff Ellis Management team at Ganster Pool this summer. Darrand was selected to participate in the Jeff Ellis Jr. Lifeguard program. The Ellis Jr. Lifeguard program, 2013 found in communities whose water facilities are managed by Jeff Ellis, typically involves an application, acceptance, and training classes for youth who are interested in becoming guards at age 15.

Darrand has been a regular visitor to Ganster over the past four years, swimming, hanging out, and spending most of his summer days there. During his visits to the pool, he carefully observed the lifeguards, noticing how they watched over the pool ensuring the safety of all patrons. He respected their professionalism and dedication. His critical eye, helpfulness, and strong presence caught the attention of Johnny Ellis-Quest, Director of Aquatics Risk Management. Ellis-Quest noticed Darrand's consistent presence at the pool and his interest in the lifeguards, leading him to ask Darrand if he wanted to become a Jr. Lifeguard.

With the permission of Darrand's parents, and his enthusiastic acceptance, he became Ganster Pool's first official Jr. Lifeguard. Darrand has shown commitment, professionalism, and the skills to become a certified Ellis Lifeguard in the near future. He plans to return to Ganster Pool next year, when he is old enough to become part of the lifeguard staff at age 15.

Johnny taught Darrand about Jeff Ellis Management's values, responsibilities, duties, and the importance of safety and professionalism while on the pool deck. When Darrand showed up 15 minutes early for his first volunteer shift, he was rewarded with an official hat, whistle, and Jr. Guard t-shirt for being on time. He learned the art of 10/20 scanning, in-water rescues, and activating the Emergency Action Plan. He practiced and trained with the lifeguards, and assisted in scenarios. He was active in helping with day-to-day operations while volunteering and assisting Management staff to provide extra help on deck. As a Jr. Lifeguard, Darrand was always shadowed by a JEM Lifeguard, and under the direct supervision of the management team.

The Waukegan Park District and Jeff Ellis Management want to thank everyone for a great pool season. We look forward to seeing everyone back at Howard Ganster Pool again next summer.



About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages from infants to seniors and special populations are included. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated

throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 57 full-time staff and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was named a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013.