

## LET'S ROLL OUT THE... P & R WELCOME WAGON



## AN INTRODUCTION OF & TO OUR "REC'IN IT" POD!

June 1, 2022

## JACOB BAKER



## RECREATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

CITY OF OCALA
PARKS & RECREATION

NAME

Jacob Baker

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

Recreation

JOB TITLE

Recreation Program Supervisor

LOCATION ASSIGNED

E.D. Croskey (Recreation and Fitness @



## WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?

Probably my uncle Frank and my mom. My uncle Frank was like a second father to me growing up and one of the biggest lessons he taught me was that no matter what you do, you should do it decently, and in order. From my mom I learned that messing up isn't the issue, it's whether you accept responsibility and attempt to fix it.

2. What was your first job?

My first job was as a janitor for the University of Florida during their home games.

3. What's the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?

The worst job I ever had was working for my dad gathering hay bales. I lasted all of three hours and learned that I am designed for the air conditioning, not the outdoors

4. What energizes you at work?

I get energized the most when I'm interacting with people and making them laugh and smile, feeling like I make a positive impact is my greatest pleasure.

5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?

To Whom Much is Given would be the title and it would be a reminder to myself and others that no matter what we have or in what capacity, there are others with less or who haven't the same opportunities, so we should all give back.

6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?

The only time I ever cry is during children's movies, and not the ones you'd expect.

7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?

Regular exercise. I've been more of an irregular exercise type of guy.

8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

That we are not made to fit in, but born to stand out. My aunt, who was quoting Ru Paul.

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?
That I smile from the inside out.
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A judgebut now I just others silently.
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?
Steve Harvey
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?
Egypt, to see the pyramids.
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Jaboukie Young-White
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?
Kayaking and hike.
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?
I'm not much of a spectator, but I do like to play volleyball as it's the only sport I've not embarrassed myself at.
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?
People chewing with their mouth ones. I used to work at an elementary school and after so many pieces of half-chewed chicken numer hitting me. I developed a trauma

## Welcome Aboard!

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

In private, with a thank you or a card and maybe a free day off.



## **BRIANNA BURGE**



## HEAD LIFEGUARD/SWIM COACH

# CITY OF COOPER CITY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NAME Brianna Burge

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE Head Lifeguard/Swim Coach

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Ouestions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your w	vork?
The person who has influenced me the most when it comes to my job is my dad. He has taught me since a young age to never give up and find passion for which love to do and once you find that passion you will never feel like you worked a day in your life. An I feel as though I have found that passion with working in reactibeing able to work with others.	n you on and
2. What was your first job?	
Lifeguard/WSI and Swirn Coach	
3. What's the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?	
N/A	
4. What energizes you at work?	
Being able to teach kids/ adults how to swim and interacting with guest that come to the pool everyday.	
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why	?
If I could write a book about my life the title would be make a splash. I would call it this because I have made such a splash in my life from completing my eduacti able to teach kids and adults how to swim. It has been such a life changing experience and I can't wait to continue.	on to being
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?	
I am in the process of starting my own swim apparel business	
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?	
I am trying to work out more and get outside more when I am not working.	
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?	

Never give up no matter how hard it gets you are smart, hardworking and strong. My dad told me this since a very young age and I always remember it.

<ol><li>What's the best compliment you've ever receive</li></ol>
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One of my swim lesson parents once told me I am a great swim instructor and you know how to understand and work with kids in ways I have never seen before

10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a resuce swimmer for the Coast Guard.

11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

If I could trade places with anyone for a day, I would choose Missy Franklin the Olympian. I love what she is doing from her swim apparel business to her swim lesson business for those in need.

12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

My top destination is Hawaii.

13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?

It would definitley have to be someone who loves they water as much as I do. I can't think of anyone specfic.

14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?

Swimming

15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?

Football, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Water Polo and Swimming

16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?

N/A

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

I prefer to be rewarded/ recognized for a job well done at my job by recognition with a certicate or at a luncheon event.



## ZAIRA DESIDERIO



## AQUATICS SITE SUPERVISOR

CITY OF TAMARAC PARKS & RECREATION

NAME Zaira Desiderio

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE
Aquatics Site Supervisor

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work
One of my co-workers, he was my mentor when I was teen in our teen program and was able to lead and train me throughout my parks and rec journey.
2. What was your first job?
City's Summer Camp-Junior Counselor
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?
I worked at a Pizza Shop for 2 days. I learned that 12-13 hours days a slow pizza shop was not for me.
4. What energizes you at work?
In the morning coffee, while working I feel most energized on event days.
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?
Exploring and Learning.
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?
One thing most people do not know, I currently practice jujitsu.
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?
One thing I am trying to make a habit is eating healthier and cleaner foods.
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?
You do not just work in Parks and Recreation, you make a difference in people's life everyday. Old Superintendent- Michelle Zimmer

<ol><li>What's the best compliment you've ever re</li></ol>	received?
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The best compliment I have received was that I was hard working and have a strong work ethic.

10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a teacher.

11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

I would trade places with my son, I really want to know what going on in his head.

12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

My top destination is The Redwood Forest.

13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Gina Rodriguez

14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?

I enjoy weightlifting and jiujitsu for physical exercise.

15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?

I enjoy to watch the UFC, participate in soccer, kickball, and jujitsu.

16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?

Not many- work related the only one is nothing giving a person your undivided attention.

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

Email and verbal recognition.



## **BECKY GUNTER**



# RECREATION DIRECTOR CITY OF SEMINOLE

NAME Becky Gunter

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE
Recreation Director

LOCATION ASSIGNED

Centeral Region- West



### WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

Michelle Thompson, Rec Director for City of Greenacres and Bill Healey- Retired , Univer	ersity of West Florida Ca	Impus Recreation	malimute garths in the colors
2. What was your first job?			
PT help for an eye doctor			
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and wh	nat did you	learn from it?	
I actually have never had a worst job but i have jobs were people i worked with or for ma	ade it really difficult. How	w i did not want to treat people.	
4. What energizes you at work?			
my staff and co-workers			
5. If you could write a book about your life	, what wou	ld the title be and v	why?
Follow your passion			
6. What's one thing most people don't kno	ow about yo	ou?	
That i am actually a private person. :)			
7. What's one thing you're currently trying	to make a	habit?	
Excercise and healthy eating			
B. What's the best advice you were ever given	ven? Who v	vas it from?	
Control what you can and don't worry about the rest. Juan Ruiz and Pick Your battlesI	am not sure who but pr	oblaly Michelle.	

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?
You are not afraid to go against the grain.
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
Marine Biologist
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?  There are so many people
There are so many people
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?
National Parks, Great Wall of China
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Reese
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?
Cycling and jogging
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?
Gator Football and Tampa Bay Lightning
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?
Being late (without any notice)- I think it shows a disrespect to other peoples time. Dishonesty
17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?
A simple great job will do.



## **AMY JEAN-BAPTISTE**



## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

## CITY OF SUNRISE LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NAME

Amy Jean-Baptiste

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE

**Assistant Director of Leisure Services** 

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?
I have mentors throughout the industry that have assisted me in how I approach my work from various angles
2. What was your first job?
Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces as a Park Service Aide
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?
At a small municipality where leadership was disconnected with the trends of the community
4. What energizes you at work?
COFFEE!
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?
"The life of a Plant Lady". I love plants!
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?
I have 7 siblings
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?
Working out
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?
Never settle! My previous Director/Mentor

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?
How accomplished I am for my age. I'm very proud of my journey in my personal and professional life.
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A Teacher
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?
No one comes to mind
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?
Nairobi, Kenya
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Serena Williams, I get mistaken for her quite often
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?
Weight lifting or walking
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?
To watch, Football and basketball
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?
"That's how it's always been". Displays a hesitation to change.

### Welcome Aboard!

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

Though I don't seek recognition as I like to remain behind the scenes, I prefer verbally or just a "thank you"



## **FRANKY LAZO**



## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

# CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH PARKS & RECREATION

NAME Franky Lazo

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE

**Assistant Director** 

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

<ol> <li>Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your w</li> </ol>	۱. ۱	Who has infl	uenced vou	most when it	comes to	how you	approach	vour woi	k?
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My dad and my sister. Growing up my dad was a small business owner so I learned that relationships go along way. My older sister has always coached me up on professionalism and going about things the right way.

2. What was your first job?

First job was CVS Pharmacy as a Store Clerk. First city job was City of Doral as a Recreation Service Aide.

3. What's the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?

Small Municipality, Sports and Activities Director. I learned to do more in depth research before accepting a position. I also learned to appreciate job stability.

4. What energizes you at work?

Motivating my team and helping them develop / succeed in personal and professional aspirations.

5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?

The Art of Leading Using Human Interactions. I am a big people person and look at myself as a humble leader. I go out of my way to build relationships and put myself in other people's shoes. I lead by example, do as I do and not as I say.

6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?

That I have a long commute from Davie to Boynton Beach. I used to commute from Hialeah to Boynton Beach.

7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?

Balance work and life a little better. Trying to spend less time at work. Better health, fitness and nutrition routine.

8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

Control what you can control! Various people in leadership positions have told me this. The higher I have gone up in the profession the more sense it makes.

eived?
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That I was the best boss someone has ever had.

#### 10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A major league baseball player. I played baseball growing up and had Tommy John surgery at the end of my junior year in high school. My backup plan was pursuing a career in Parks and Recreation.

#### 11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk, to pick their brains. Get a look at their business structures.

#### 12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

Bora Bora

#### 13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Mark Wahlberg

#### 14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?

Playing sports

#### 15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?

Watch: Football, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, UFC. Play: Kickball, Softball, Basketball.

#### 16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?

Rude, self centered and unfriendly people. I am big on good relationships and being humble.

#### 17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

Handshake from my supervisor and comment on a job well done.



## MARIA LEIVA



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM MANAGER

# COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT CITY OF AVENTURA

NAME Maria A. Leiva

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE
Community Program Manager

**LOCATION ASSIGNED** 



### WELCOME WAGON Ouestions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?
My mother.
2. What was your first job?
Sales Associate at Limited Too
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?
Though but I can truly say that I have loved all my jobs. There has been some "ugh" moments in them. if I can choose one thing I've learned is that nothing last forever. So that bad slump will eventually pass.
4. What energizes you at work?
Playing music and being able to sing aloud.
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?
Marialism. It would be a book on all my visions and thoughts. I feel that I am the go to person for some advice.
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?
I don't drink beer
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?
Drinking more water!
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?
Our life is like an apartment building, each floor represents a year in your life. All those windows with the "lights off" represent the bad that we don't want to remember but that is just the start. Being able to be vulnerable with oneself is the best self growth. A life mentor.

You have been my favorite boss!
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
Dentist or Teacher
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?
Obama
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?
Greece
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?
Ciara
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?
Weights
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?
Football is my fav! I also enjoy basketbal, lets go HEAT! Baseball and hockey are also fun to watch.
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?
Dirty work areas!
17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?
Raises and just overall well done compliments.



## **KYLE PRYCE**



## PARKS PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

## COLLIER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

NAME Kyle Pryce

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE

Parks Program Supervisor

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Ouestions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?
Parents - Working two jobs to provide for three boys. My Father - Who worked in parks and enjoyed his job. My Oldest Brother - Pursuing a job that you love. My Wife - I try to be organized and wise just as she is
2. What was your first job?
Summer Camp Counselor - City of North Lauderdale
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?
Kohl's - Learned that if management is not on the same page with each other and not speaking the same language, trust begins to fall amongst staff.
4. What energizes you at work?
Seeing Children and Families enjoying our park and programs, giving children childhood memories
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?
Simple - Thats how I try to live my life.
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?
I am a big College sports fan of all sports and levels, Division I, Division II, Division III, NAIA
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?
Confronting wrongs and issues immediately and not overthinking

8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

Treat other as you want to be treated

#### 9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?

A patron complimented my work ethic when I was cleaning baseboards at a gym upstairs. She mentioned that I was cleaning and not missing any spots while no one was upstairs exercising or watching.

10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Soccer Player

11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

A Professional Athlete, no one specific

12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

Blue Mountains, Jamaica

13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Danzel Washington

14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?

Running or Playing Soccer

15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?

Soccer, Track and Field, Basketball, College Football

16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?

When people yell into microphones. The microphone already projects your voice, so no need to yell. When yelling into microphones you cant understand what is being said. People that always have an excuse, I believe you can always find a way. People who brag or show off to make other feel inferior

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

Simple, thank you or acknowledge of my improvement



## **PATTIE ROBERTS**



## **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

## PORT ST. LUCIE PARKS & RECREATION

NAME Pattie Roberts

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

Stay in school and don't just be a by-stander - be a leader.

JOB TITLE

Deputy Director-Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Ouestions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your work?	
Both of my parents. From early on, both my mom and dad instilled in me the value of education post-high school, up to and including collegiate level education degrees.	
2. What was your first job?	
My first formal job (apart from working custodial for my father's lumber yard and custom home-building business) was at McDonald's.	
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?	
McDonald's - I never wanted to be the "go between" people and their food.	
4. What energizes you at work?	
Two things energize me - teamwork and innovation. When both come together, I am firing on all cylinders!	
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?	
"Keep All Things in Perspective," a memoir about the impacts of losing a child due to substance use and mental health challenges.	
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?	
I played flag football during summers between freshman and sophomore years in college.	
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?	
Operative wordtryingseparating work from life to achieve a more healthy work-home life balance.	
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?	

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?

"You sure can write!"

10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An attorney.

11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?

I would trade places with my son, Danny, so that he could experience one more day on this earth.

12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?

White Potato Lake, the summer home of my youth!

13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?

It would be my privilege if Meryl Streep would play me in a movie about my life.

14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?

In my younger years, and as much as possible through today, I enjoy walking outdoors.

15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?

My husband watches more than his and my fair share of sports. In my past, I've participated in flag football, softball, track, swim team, basketball, cheerleading, volleyball.

16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?

My pet peeve is people who watch clocks. Life is way too short to count time. Time is precious and should be enjoyed.

17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?

Kind words about my job performance is the best recognition I can receive.



## **ALTHEA SAMPSON**



## **CENTER COORDINATOR**

## CITY OF TAMPA PARKS & RECREATION

NAME

Althea Sampson

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

Recreation

JOB TITLE Center Coordinator

**LOCATION ASSIGNED** 

Oak Park Community Center/Tampa, FI



### WELCOME WAGON Questions for New Employees

My father, he always said work with what you love doing and you will alwayslove your work!!	
2. What was your first job?	
YMCA Daycare	
3. What!s the worst job you've had, and what did you learn fr	om it?
Red Lobster prep server, how demanding people can be	med deleterate resort. A trace de delete de la contraction de la c
4. What energizes you at work?	
Knowing I can put a smile on my Seniors and afterschool kids faces each day	
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the t	itle be and why?
The Art of Being Resilient. Because of my ability to overcome setbacks.	
5. What's one thing most people don't know about you?	
l use to be a body builder	
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?	
Cooking at least 4 days a week	
3. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it fro	om?
Experience is a great teacher, learn from it or you will repeat your errors. My Father!!	

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?	
You look to young to be a grandmother of 13	
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?	
A Lawyer	
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?  Ophrah Winfrey	
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?	
Italy	
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?	
My Oldest daughter	
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?	
Walking	
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?	
Football/ Volleyball and bowling	
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?	
lack of communication. I believe it cost nothing to communicate to others so you can be on the same page or at least receive an FYI when something is planned or happening.	
17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?	

## Welcome Aboard!

Privately does not have to be publicly recognized



## **CASSIE WAREN**



## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

# CITY OF DANIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NAME Cassi Waren

**DIVISION ASSIGNED** 

JOB TITLE

Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

LOCATION ASSIGNED



### WELCOME WAGON Ouestions for New Employees

1. Who has influenced you most when it comes to how you approach your wo	ork?
My mother. Her dedication and work ethic have allowed her to succeed in a male dominated industry.	
2. What was your first job?	
A nanny	
3. What's the worst job you've had, and what did you learn from it?	
Server at Golden Corral. How to respect and treat severs.	
4. What energizes you at work?	
Success seeing the outcome and success of a program, event, etc.	
5. If you could write a book about your life, what would the title be and why?	
Always on the Bright Side - I always try to see the good in ever person or situation in my life.	apolicalistanseasa
6. What's one thing most people don't know about you?	
I hate when someone is mad at me. It eats me up.	
7. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?	1000 (Kinganyan)
Waking up on my first alarm. I'm failing!	
8. What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?	
Don't be afraid to fail. My parents! When I committed to move to Florida	

9. What's the best compliment you've ever received?	
You are always there for anyone no matter what.	
10. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?	
A physical therapist.	
11. If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?	
Erik Spolstra would love to see what the life of a head coach in the NBA is like.	
12. What's the top destination on your must-visit list?	
Africa for a Safari	
13. Who would play you in a movie about your life?	
Reese Witherspoon	
14. What type of physical exercise do you prefer to do?	
Running	
15. What types of sports do you prefer to watch? Participate in?	
Watch: Basketball, football, baseball, golf, soccer Play: Basketball	
16. List any pet peeves you have. Why do they bother you?	
Loud chewers!!! It's disgusting and the sound creeps me out.	
17. How do you prefer to be rewarded/recognized for a job well done?	

## Welcome Aboard!

Recognition.

