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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kerrville Lifeguard Team Takes Home the Gold
at the State Lifeguard Championships**

Kerrville, Texas (July 25, 2013) – The City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department’s competitive Lifeguard Team (Guard Team) competed against 11 other teams at the T.A.A.F. Games of Texas State Lifeguard Championships in Corpus Christi on July 24, 2013. The team won 1st Place and brought home gold medals earning the title of the 2013 State Champions.

In order to advance to the State Lifeguard Championships, teams must qualify by placing in the top three at a regional qualifier competition. The City of Kerrville Guard Team qualified not only at one competition, but both qualifying competitions they attended. The team earned 2nd Place at the Texas SuperGuard Competition held in College Station on July 8, 2013 and 3rd at the Central Texas Lifeguard Competition held in New Braunfels on July 15, 2013 in addition to placing 1st in the CPR / First-Aid Division and 2nd in the Spinal Injury Management Division. Since the team qualified twice, they graciously gave their State bid to the 4th Place team so they could advance to State.

A Lifeguard Competition team consists of two female and two male lifeguards. The Kerrville Guard Team members are Travis Barnes-Johnson, Melissa Blanchard, Rosa Ledesma, and Chase Rosborough. Barnes-Johnson and Blanchard both participated in the

competitive lifeguard competitions last year in which the team qualified for the State Lifeguard Competition in Kerrville's first year competing. The State Championships was unexpectedly rescheduled from its original date thus resulting in one of the team members being unable to attend. Rosborough was being honored out of state at a scholarship banquet and was disappointed he couldn't compete with his team. Rachael Bruce stepped up to fill in his shoes at her first ever competition. "She did a phenomenal job," stated Destini Leija, Parks and Recreation Specialist, "The team was supportive of Chase and understood, but devastated that they might not get to compete at State. Rachael bravely volunteered and endured intense training to catch up with the rest of the team. She was a perfect fit."

The State Championships comprised of three different events. The first event was the CPR / First-Aid event which consisted of four different patients. Each guard was responsible for the care and treatment of one person. One patient had a severely sprained ankle and was suffering anaphylaxis from a bee sting. The second patient had an impaled object in the foot in addition to heat exhaustion. The third patient had a diabetic emergency with a laceration to the leg. The fourth patient was asthmatic with a nosebleed.

The second event consisted of a pool scenario with a patient that had a spinal injury, two shadow dolls simulating unconscious guests on the bottom of the pool and a guest that had a language barrier and was hyperventilating due to the emergencies. The teams had to effectively extricate the spinal injury patient from the water while maintaining inline stabilization as to not further escalate his condition, recognize and rescue the shadow dolls within the time allotment and calm down the hyperventilating guest.

The third and final event took place in the 14 ½ foot diving well with a guest on a tube in the water that choked and thus went unconscious, an unconscious infant in the water and an active guest in distress in addition to providing rule enforcement. The teams had to effectively extricate the choking guest from the water and provide basic life-support skills including removing the object from the airway and providing artificial respiration; rescue the passive infant and provide basic life support skills such as artificial respiration; in addition to rescuing the active guest in distress in the water and safely removing her from the water.

All events and scenarios are unknown to the teams. The competitions are open to all Lifeguard Training programs such as the company the City of Kerrville utilizes, Jeff Ellis & Associates, as well as others including the American Red Cross, YMCA, NASCO and Star Guard. The teams are meticulously judged on their ability to recognize and react to each emergency, problem solving, confidence, teamwork, rule enforcement, triage, and overall skill level and management of the scenario.

The City of Kerrville Guard Team took the lead at 42 points above the City of Georgetown, the 2nd place team which only scored 4 points higher than the City of Cedar Park, the 3rd Place team. The Guard Team will be recognized at the August 13, 2013 City Council meeting. "We are very proud of our team. They have undergone very intense and exhausting training to prepare for the competitions," stated Ashlea Boyle, Main Street / Special Projects Manager, "Guard Team is a valuable tool for facilities. It elevates the knowledge base of the staff due to continuous training on top of the regular in-service trainings. It adds a sense of camaraderie and pride to the entire facility. Our team did very well at all three competitions and has established the 'City of Kerrville' as one of the top teams to beat. That's a very difficult thing to do."

For additional information contact Ashlea Boyle, Main Street / Special Projects Manager at 830.258.1153, via e-mail to ashlea.boyle@kerrvilletx.gov or visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov.



Pictured – Kerrville Guard Team at the State Lifeguard Championships on July 24, 2013.
(left to right): Rosa Ledesma, Rachael Bruce, Melissa Blanchard, Travis Barnes-Johnson.

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