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PRESS RELEASE

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Kerrville Guard Team Qualifies for State Lifeguard Competition

Kerrville, Texas (July 29, 2016) – The City of Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department’s Lifeguard Team is heading to McAllen, Texas this weekend for the State Lifeguard Competition.

On July 18, 2016, the group from Kerrville competed against 16 other teams at the Central Texas Lifeguard Competition in New Braunfels, Texas. The Kerrville team was awarded 2nd place overall, and qualified for the Games of Texas State Lifeguard Competition to be held in McAllen on August 1, 2016.

Out of the four events at the Central Texas Lifeguard Competition, the Kerrville team placed 1st in the *First-Aid / CPR* event, 2nd in the *Scenarios* event, and 2nd in the *Scanning* event.

A Lifeguard Competition Team or “Guard Team” consists of four lifeguards, typically two female and two male. The 2016 Kerrville Lifeguard Team members include Wren Vogel, Jacob Pierz, Courtney LaQuey, Carlos Nava, and alternate Taylor Benedick, all of whom are

first year competitors. In addition to their regular lifeguard duties, the team endures rigorous and specialized training to prepare for these competitions.

“These young adults are remarkably dedicated and have worked exceptionally hard to perform at a competitive level,” said Ashlea Boyle, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.

The Central Texas Lifeguard Competition posed several unknown scenarios and simulations to test individual and team skills in areas including First-Aid, CPR, spinal injury management, water rescue, caring for conscious and unconscious guests, as well as several additional lifesaving techniques.

“Our guards are trained and licensed under the Jeff Ellis & Associates lifeguard training program. We are trained to use basic life support equipment such as supplemental oxygen and an automated external defibrillator (AED),” said Boyle. “Competition coordinators do their best to simulate emergencies with makeup, props, fake blood, and in some competitions, a theatric professional to create life like injuries. Teams are then 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. It’s actually quite difficult and we are very proud of our team.”

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Kerrville Competitive Guard Team
Pictured from left to right: Jacob Pierz, Carlos Nava, Taylor Benedick, Courtney LaQuey, Wren Vogel