



Members of the Katy Comets participate in the Special Olympics



The Katy Comets currently have around 15 members



Team members draw strength and inspiration from each other

THE KATY COMETS

This special needs bowling team fights against the odds and competes in Special Olympics while enjoying every moment and soaking up the memories

Written by Leigh Ann Mitchell | Photography courtesy of the Katy Comets

Founded in 2000, the Katy Comets are a bowling league currently consisting of 15 spectacular bowlers. While many of the members have special needs, nothing slows this team down.

Bowling and Life Lessons

Comet Coach Steve Sieck says that life has taught them how to take on anything that crosses their path. “Bowling is a great outlet and also a great way to be with people who mean the most to them.”

The Katy Comets have teammates from all over the U.S. “We have bowlers from California to Florida, with as many as 30 athletes and this number is constantly changing as we take on new members,” says Sieck.

Diana Nicodemus, whose daughter Kristen joined the comets at age 16, says that they have seen her personality blossom. “She goes out of her way to greet her teammates, takes direction from her coaches, and really works hard to improve herself on the lanes.”

Proud Moments

Long-term goals of the Katy Comets include the continuation of participating in the Special Olympics. “We are very active in all Special Olympic competitions which lead to state games in Austin, Texas each year,” Sieck smiles. Before bowlers can qualify for the state games, each athlete

must participate in a regional qualifier in December and competitions during the year. The Katy Comets also make sure that they give all athletes interested in bowling the opportunity to be part of the team.

The Katy Comets draw incredible strength from one another. “We are as much of a family as we are a team,” states Sieck. “Each member always strives to become a better person. They learn that win or lose, just have a great time and enjoy the moment.”

Katy Comet coaches are very proud of their athletes and there are countless accomplishments. “Seeing an athlete that works so hard to become a good bowler, stand up and receive that medal or ribbon is always a proud moment,” Sieck explains. Teammates endlessly cheer for one another to do their best and the look on their parents’ faces as they bowl is absolutely priceless. “The smiles, hugs, and high fives say it all,” laughs Sieck.

The Comet Family

The Katy Comets are family to one another. “They are always picking each other up, but most of all, loving one another. This is what makes coaching so great,” says Sieck. Nicodemus adds, “Our Katy Comets coaches encourage our athletes to work hard, be respectful of others, and have team spirit. Their heart has helped them succeed in life and on the lanes.” KM



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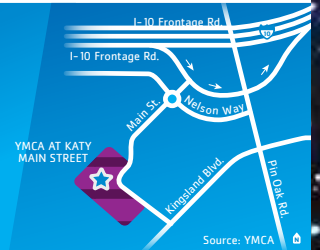
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