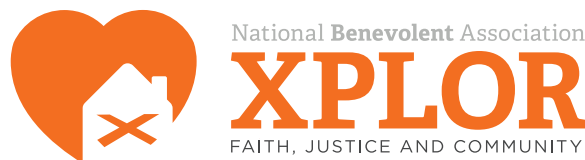


Welcoming the 2016-17 NBA XPLOR Residents!



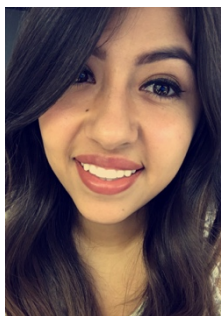
Tucson-Marana, AZ

Cody Bailey



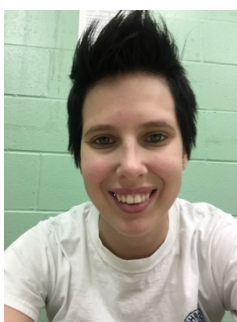
Cody is an active member and youth leader at Pershing Avenue Christian Church, Orlando, FL, and has counseled many summer camps. She is a student at Valencia College pursuing a major in marine biology and a minor in psychology. She has worked with the FL PTA speaking out against unfair budget cuts, bullying, and other issues. She volunteers in feeding the homeless and making dinner for families with loved ones in the hospital. She loves to make people laugh; is skilled in photography, writing and drawing; and is a huge movie buff. She also has a secret talent of making balloon animals.

Adrianna (Belen) De La Trinidad



Belen is a leader and deacon at East Whittier Christian Church in Whittier, CA, where she is very involved on the worship team as singer and bass player, and on the Executive Board. She has participated in many church dramas and special programs and is currently helping to start a community garden. She is bilingual. She is an administrative clerk for the LA Office of Parks and Recreation. She has great interest in addressing domestic violence, homelessness, and suicide prevention. She loves reading, writing, and cooking. She knows God is calling her out of comfort zone and is excited to discover her growing edge. Her brother, Josh, will also be in the program this year, living in NBA XPLOR Golden Gate.

Lauren Frato



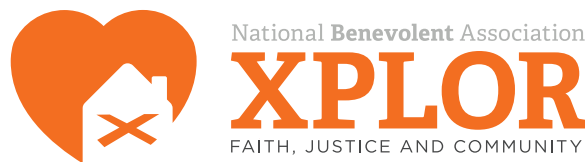
Lauren is a second-year XPLOR Resident, having spent last year living in St. Louis and working with Neighborhood Houses, a program for children in low-income communities. In St. Louis at Union Avenue Christian Church, Lauren taught Sunday School for elementary children, served on the worship committee, and assisted in leading worship in about every role possible. Being in St. Louis, her eyes have really been opened to racism and white privilege. Most of her life, she has been working with kids, so she hopes to broaden her skills in a new internship area. She might like her life's work to be in the nonprofit field. She has a passion for music, traveling, and interpersonal communication.

Matthew Sipos



Matt is originally from Chesterland, OH; his home church is Good Shepherd Christian Church, and he graduated in May 2016 from Disciples-related Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia, with a religious studies major. On campus he has worked for three years at the IT Help Desk and serves as chaplain for his Greek house. His career goal is chaplaincy in military, hospital, or prison. He has worked with community gardens and has been on a Disciples Home Missions home-building event. He loves all genres of music and really enjoys finding simple recipes online and cooking them. Working with technology is a hobby, including building his own gaming computer.

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Golden Gate, CA

Josh De La Trinidad



Josh is from Southern California and is an active member and often praise band leader at his home church, East Whittier Christian Church in Whittier, CA. Josh names himself very shy. He has worked for the last two years as team leader in a machine shop. He is very proficient in Spanish and English, written and spoken. He has First Aid/CPR certification. He worked for a year with people with mental and physical disabilities. He loves to cook. His sister, Belen, will also be in the program, living in NBA XPLOR Tucson-Marana.

Caleb Greydanus



Caleb recently graduated from the University of Oregon, Eugene, with a major in history. He was raised Presbyterian in a small Oregon town. While in college he has been part of collegiate ministry with the Baptist Church and more recently has attended the UCC church in Eugene. He loves hiking and camping, is a political junkie, and brings a major commitment to addressing injustice in the United States and beyond.

Aubrey Stewart



Aubrey comes from Cuyahoga Falls, OH, and Christ Centered Community Church. Because of extensive service and leadership in her own church, music ministry, and women's ministry, and the fact that she was entering her late 20s, she feels like her life was at a crossroads and wants to move forward with greater purpose and strategy. She has experience in customer service and personal training, and is a State Tested Nurses Assistant. When asked how she would feel about moving to the Golden Gate XPLOR House, she immediately responded with "YES!" She is very excited about being exposed to different aspects of spirituality and learning to practice that in a group setting.

Kaeli Sweigard



Kaeli is from Ontario, Canada, and has been a Disciple since 2012, as an active member at Sugarbush Christian Church. She serves on the Canadian Board of Disciples, attended the Disciples Leadership Institute sponsored by Higher Education Leadership Ministries in 2014, and also served as a steward to the World Council of Churches in 2014. She has studied naturopathy but has decided to pursue other avenues of service through NBA XPLOR. Kaeli is active in Brazilian JiuJitsu and enjoys writing and illustration. She says, "I want to serve, and I admit I need a community and leadership to help me along the way."

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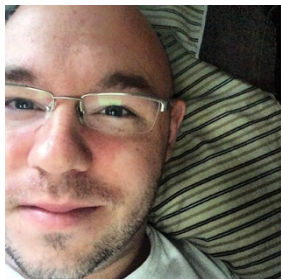


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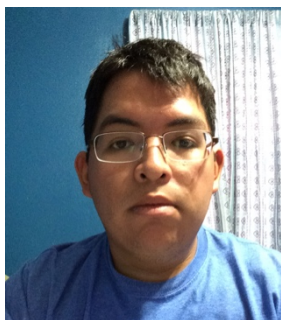
North Hollywood, CA

Tim Campbell



Tim is a strongly committed Canadian Disciple, the first Canadian in NBA XPLOR. He is part of a dynamic new church start, Sugarbush Christian Church in Guelph, Ontario. He has extensive experience in theater, creative writing, First Aid-CPR training, and character voices. He recently served as an adult sponsor of the General Youth Council. Tim has been working as a customer representative/digital ambassador for Scotiabank over the past year. Tim believes that his life needs some “shaking up from complacency,” and he is excited about the new challenges and opportunities of living in the USA and in the living community of NBA XPLOR.

Eliud (Eli) Peralez



Eli is a member of Iglesia Cristiana Emmanuel, San Benito, TX, where his parents are the co-pastors. He is a student at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, majoring in history, and he hopes to be a middle school history teacher some day. He has worked as a substitute teacher, fork lift operator, and kitchen manager. His passion is music ministry and youth ministry, and he plays drums, piano, guitar, and several other instruments, as well as leading a praise team at his church. He also works with Lilies of the Valley, a program his church sponsors working with abused and neglected women. He has done many mission trips locally and across the Mexican border.

Hannah Ryder



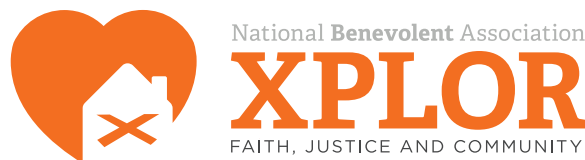
Hannah brings a very unique talent and skill as the captain and then teacher of University of Central Florida's winter guard program, a world-finalist performing arts program. She is a long-time and very active member at Pershing Avenue Christian Church in Orlando, FL, where she has worked with the youth program, parents' day out program, Sunday School, and in the nursery. She hopes to become an educator. She loves dance, writing fiction, and desires to stand up and fight against injustices. She currently works in retail.

Kydashia (Kay) White



Kay is a rising senior at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX, an historic black Disciples college. She has served in many leadership and service positions: vice president of Peer Educators, whose mission is to help students with substance abuse, healthy dating, and stress; on Student Government Association; and she attended a Clinton Initiative event in Miami, FL, about providing clean water and adequate food to children in Africa. She believes that God has something important for her to do with her life and hopes to find that in NBA XPLOR. She loves to dance and has been part of a hip-hop dance team; she also enjoys acting, spoken word, and painting.

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St. Louis, MO

Alex Cooper



Alex grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. He ventured away from Texas to Disciples-related Eureka College in Illinois for three semesters, then came back home, and has been working in a bank for the last 18 months. He is a long-time member of First Christian Church, Cleburne, TX, and has been active in Disciples camps, conferences and retreats. He loves hiking, nature, and hosting get-togethers. He would love to learn how to play the ukulele, but he does not own one! He is sensing that he might have a call to vocational ministry, so he views NBA XPLOR as a wonderful time of discernment.

Abby Henegar



Abby is originally from Centralia, IL, a long-time member of First Christian Church there, but just graduated from Disciples-related Texas Christian University in May 2016 with a major in psychology and a minor in sociology. She is a member of the HELM Leadership Fellows. At TCU she served as co-president of the Faith Acts Organization and was active in Disciples on Campus. She has spent many weeks counseling Disciples summer camps. She loves photography, curriculum writing, fitness, and working with children.

William Jackson



William is a senior at Disciples-related Culver-Stockton College, Canton, MO, graduating in December 2017 with a major in music education and music therapy, but he is taking a break to be part of NBA XPLOR. His home church is Second Christian Church in New London, MO, but he has been the choir director at Canton Christian Church for the last few years. He plays piano and saxophone, and he sings in his college choir and myriad other choirs and ensembles. William is thrilled to be in the St. Louis XPLOR House because of Union Avenue Christian Church's amazing music program.

Rachael Wentworth



Rachael is from Kewanee, IL, and graduated in May 2016 from Disciples-related Eureka College in Eureka, IL, with a major in psychology and art. She has both a Presbyterian and Disciples background. She has been involved in a large number of service experiences, both at college and in her hometown: Stepladder Tutoring, for children falling behind in school; Build-a-Bear for Toys for Tots; AmeriCorps; trick or treat for UNICEF; and Salvation Army, just to name a few. At Eureka, she has been involved in leadership in both a social and service fraternity and has had leadership positions there. She loves reading, period movies, dancing, volleyball, and exercise.

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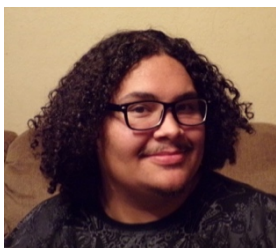


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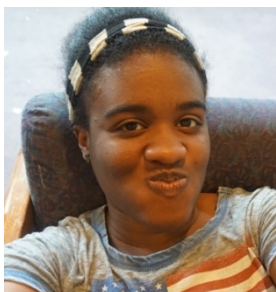
Hiram-Mantua, OH

Claude Goree



Claude's home church is First Christian Church in Selma, CA, a small-town congregation with a large and diverse young adult group. In high school, Claude was a four-year, three-sport athlete: football, wrestling, and track. He has counseled middle school church camp for the past three years as a song leader. In his time at College of the Sequoias, he has been seeking an associate's in culinary arts and a minor in vocal performance. He loves to sing, write and lead music, cook, play piano, and read.

Diamond Green



Diamond learned about the NBA XPLOR while attending National Avenue Christian Church in Springfield, MO, during her studies at Missouri State University. She is taking a break from her studies there, where she has been majoring in psychology with a minor in law. While at MSU, she became a good friend of the Disciples campus minister and was very active in a group called Ekklesia. Diamond's home church is El Shaddai Miracle Temple in Chicago. Her work experience includes serving as a children's caregiver and student worker/librarian while in college. She enjoys cooking, listening, cartoons, and really wants to focus her prayer life. She only likes one vegetable—cauliflower!

Sarah Smith



Sarah recently graduated from Disciples-related Bethany College in Bethany, WV, with a major in biochemistry-chemistry. She is a life-long Disciple, her home church being First Christian Church, Bluefield, WV, and has counseled at many summer camps and was employed as youth director for several years at First Christian Church, Wheeling, WV, while in college. At Bethany, she served in leadership through her sorority, Chemistry Society, and Japanese Culture Club. She is a Kalon Scholar and a Campbell Scholar. She loves doing community service, photography, and is computer proficient. Two service highlights for her have been supporting the Make-A-Wish Foundation and raising more than \$2,500 for Autism Speaks.

Benton Stull



Benton comes to NBA XPLOR from a long history at Pratt Presbyterian Church, where he currently serves as an elder and has been involved in jail ministry for the last two years. He is a graduate of Hastings College in Hastings, NE, with a major in history and religion. He loves theological conversations and wants to deepen his spiritual disciplines. In XPLOR, he hopes to discern if there might be a call to ministry. He also spent nearly three years in the U.S. Army as a Human Intelligence Collector. During those years he became convicted to a life of non-violence and was eventually honorably discharged as a Conscientious Objector. He loves exercising and running, public speaking, reading prophetic science fiction, drawing, and painting.

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Dallas, TX

Mitchell McGill



Mitchell graduated in May as a psychology major from Westminster College in Fulton, MO, having served there as president of the Environmentally Concerned Students and president of the Philosophers Corner. He has a strong concern for social justice and has worked with two political campaigns, as well as volunteered in numerous education programs in the Metro St. Louis area. His faith background is varied, but he sees NBA XPLOR as an opportunity to fulfill his potential and to do God's work. He also plays the guitar.

Imani Williams



Imani just graduated with a communications and media studies major from Goucher College in Baltimore, but her home church is Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA, where she was deeply involved in the life of that congregation. While at Goucher, she worked as an office assistant in the President's Office. While at Ray of Hope, she helped create A.Y.E. (Amazing Youth Empowerment) and served as an intern. She has also served as an intern at Emory University. In her late teens, she almost lost her life, and that helped her realize how real God is. During XPLOR, she expects to strengthen her faith journey and discern what God has in store for her next. She loves working with children and says her middle name is "creativity."