

Throughout my life I have played a lot of sports, and have been taught by many different coaches, but none come close to the impact bowling has had on my life. I first came into Liberty Lanes' Youth Bowling Academy Program with *zero* bowling experience. I didn't have a lot of confidence when it came to doing things out of my comfort zone, I was shy, and I didn't know anyone. The first person who had welcomed me into the program was Coach Carmen; she made me feel welcomed and taught me everything I needed to know, starting with the fundamentals. I practiced technique, learned important bowling terminology, and learned more about myself throughout the process. Coach Carmen saw the level I was at when I began and made it her mission to help me improve, to be the bowler she *knew* I could be.

Coach Carmen worked so hard to get me to where I am today. She picked me up when I was down, pushed me to become more confident in not only my skill but in myself, and helped train me to go lengths I could only dream of. In a span of four years, from my freshman year to senior year of high school, I went from an athlete with zero bowling experience to ranking 18th in the Florida State High School Bowling Tournament, and placing second in the High School PCAC tournament. Coach Carmen is an amazing coach because cares about her students. Not only is her positive energy contagious and uplifting, her honesty is what truly helped me improve the way I did. She didn't sugarcoat the things I needed to work on, and was honest about what she saw that I needed to improve.

It was in Academy where I learned to become confident and to push myself past my limits in order to achieve my dreams. I made so many friends in Academy and have made so many connections throughout the years with people who want to help me become a better bowler.

What made the Academy different from any other sports youth program is that everyone gets the help that is unique to their skill sets. You'll be taught the fundamentals, bowling terminology, the logistics of the sport, and will learn new skills each practice you come to. You get one on one with the coaches and get to work with other experienced bowlers to help improve your game and throughout it all, the coaches show that they care and want the best for you. Academy isn't just a program, it's a family and the moment you enroll you're a part of that family.

Bowling has become more than a sport for me, it's a passion. Bowling has become an important part of my life and the positive impact it had on me helped me become the person I am today. The Academy and the coaches have helped me so much, and I am forever grateful for the kindness and guidance they have shown me. It's thanks to Coach Carmen, Coach Alex, and Coach Scott that I've improved so much and have gotten so far in the span of four years. It's because of them that I was accepted onto my university's bowling team, and earned a scholarship to bowl in college. The bowling alley is like a second home to me, and the Liberty Lanes Youth Academy Program is a community I will never forget. It was there that I knew bowling was the sport for me, and that it was something I truly wanted to become great at. It was there that I met coaches and friends who'd work alongside me and would help me improve

as I strived to become a better bowler. Thank you Liberty Lanes, and thank you Coach Carmen, for everything.