

Shanel can't wait to make kids feel at home at camp

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STAFF REPORTER

Any new kids planning to attend camp at the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough this summer?

Congratulations. You'll be the lucky winners of a new best friend. Her name is Shanel Jaggon and, like any good pal, she'll be there for you all the way.

"I'll stick by their side and introduce them to everyone who helped me when I was a camper," said the 14-year-old, who first came to camp

when she was 6.

This summer, Shanel will be wearing a new hat as a leader in training. Mature beyond her years, she's taking the responsibility very seriously. And that means making new campers feel welcome and at home.

"I'll take them with me and show them how much fun the programs and the people are," said the Grade 8 student at St. Martin de Porres Catholic School. "Camp is such a great opportunity. Honestly, it's really worth going to camp."

One of the highlights of her years of experience was learning to swim. "I learned to do cartwheels into the water and I didn't get any water up my nose," she said proudly.

Though the salad days of being a camper may be behind her, Shanel is looking forward to new adventures as a leader in training. She hopes to become a counsellor one day.

She sees only one drawback. "The scariest thing is maybe the kids won't like me."

Fat chance of that happening con-

sidering Shanel has some experience working with children under her belt. She's a big sister to Faith, 8, and Cafra, 6, and helps entertain them — often playing games she learned at camp. She's also on the youth council at the boys and girls club — an ambassador for the organization and community.

"I like kids and want to be a teacher just like both of my aunts," said Shanel. "I'm going into the LIT program this summer because I'm training to be a better person."

With your gift, the Fresh Air Fund can help send 25,000 disadvantaged and special needs children to camp.

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