

By Maddie Kranz:

Throughout my participation in the RAYBA program, the main lesson I learned was a combination of two aspects: dependability and hard work. To me, these two life lessons work hand in hand with one another. RAYBA, along with the sport of basketball was one of the first activities to truly hold me accountable, as I started playing in second grade. It taught me the power and importance of showing up for myself and for my team, a leadership and teamwork skill I will always cherish and continue to live by. Being dependable is an extremely important trait to have in every aspect of life. In school, work, sports, and relationships, dependability is always crucial. RAYBA taught me to be dependable by placing me on a team and providing practices, games, and tournaments too. Even on the days I had no motivation to do anything, the thought of playing basketball for Rogers would get me out of bed, as I knew I had a team, coach, and a game to show up for.

The next lesson I was taught was hard work. From a young age, RAYBA has played a massive role in my work ethic. As stated earlier, I believe hard work and dependability work right alongside one another. Because I was taught to work hard, I became dependable. And because I was dependable, I was pushed to work even harder. Every practice, game, tyout, or even open gym, I felt inspired by the players and coaches to try my absolute best. My father Mark Kranz was also a huge inspiration to many players, including myself. He played an enormous role in my work ethic and dependability. He, along with the other coaches, always made me feel so comfortable and powerful with my basketball abilities, all while still having fun. The legacy of hard work and dependability, along with endless laughs and smiles, is undoubtedly found in my father, and I vow to follow in his footsteps using the lessons I have learned, and will eternally cherish these skills I have acquired from RAYBA.