

Sycamore Canyon Academy's Continuum of Care

On February 11th, 2009, Program Director Ike Shipman presented a former Sycamore Canyon Academy student-athlete, Henry, with an honorary RAM jacket at his current high school. Henry was unable to complete the entire Sycamore Canyon Academy program due to medical reasons—he had been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The tumor was located in his frontal lobe and had caused him to experience episodic seizures.



Former SCA student Henry at his new high school.

When Henry left Sycamore Canyon Academy, he was as an Intern in the Conservation Phase, and only had two remaining RAMS meetings left to complete. Mr. Shipman was with him during his stay at the hospital and notes that even while recovering from an episode in bed, Henry still stated that he didn't want to leave the academy without successfully completing his program. One of Henry's mentors, Coach Counselor DeChamp, recalls that "he had worked so hard to get his RAM Status and was very worried that he may not have the opportunity to complete what he had started."

In a letter written to his former staff and peers, Henry said that "although I left Sycamore Canyon Academy as an Intern, I would have liked to earn my RAM to prove to myself that I could do it..." So, when Henry left the academy, the staff and students gathered together to discuss and

acknowledge the work that he had completed while in the program. A RAMS meeting was then held for him, and based on the progress that he had made, support for his RAM status was unanimous. "Although I was not able to complete...the program, I learned a lot from it, and believe I was a positive student."

Henry made the most of his time at Sycamore Canyon Academy and has taken the positive lessons he's learned back into his own community. "Since I have been in the community, I have used what I have learned to make good choices, be responsible, and be respectful to those around me," he continued.



Henry shakes the hand of SCA Program Director, Ike Shipman, after receiving his honorary RAM jacket.

Since he left the program, he's been making exceptional choices. He is on track to graduate high school before his senior year ends; he's in contact with Army National Guard recruiters and will start training as soon as he's cleared by his doctor; and he is also enrolled in a fire science program that will provide him the necessary training to become a firefighter.

Winter Weather Knows No Boundaries



Paddle Cactus covered in snow along the north side of campus.

On February 10, 2009, student-athletes at Sycamore Canyon Academy woke up to a white campus. A snowstorm had covered the ground during the previous night. Although the morning temperature was 41°F, it wasn't cold enough to stop the students from making the best of the winter spectacle.

"I woke up in the morning and looked out the window. I was amazed to see the campus covered in snow," says student-athlete Xavier, a RAM at Sycamore Canyon Academy. "It's pretty special to me because I never get to see snow back at home in Tucson."

Staff and students alike look forward to snow. A lot of the students at the

academy are from metropolitan and urbanized cities, so snow isn't a very common thing for them. And even those who don't live in the city are typically unable to see it because their home communities are often in warm weather climates.

This is only the second time this year that the snow has lingered long enough to be admired by Sycamore Canyon Academy's staff and students. And when it falls, it leaves the whole site covered in a fantastic sheet of white, providing for many exciting events and activities. Everyone continues to look forward to more frosty weather, as weather reports predict more snow in the coming days.



Students found rabbit tracks later in the afternoon.

By: Student-Athlete Joseph, Conservation Phase, 2/10/09