



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

SUBMIT YOUR Y STORY

BRANDON MARKS'S Y STORY

"I'm surprised about how much time I spend here." Brandon is a familiar face throughout the Clark County Family YMCA. You can find him in most areas—serving where there is a need, whether teaching children in Y Time, coaching on the basketball court or helping at the membership desk. Brandon spends most of his free time here at Clark. "I come over after school to work or hang out ... I spend close to five or six hours here a day." He is always willing to lend a helping hand to whomever needs it.

The Y has been very accommodating to his schedule, as he finishes his senior year in high school. "They give me great hours, and let me finish my school day before I have to work." Brandon is grateful the Y values him as an employee to give him flexible shifts so he can complete his academic career.

Brandon joined the Y family in May of 2017 as a Clark Elite coach. He applied for the position because he wanted something different



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from working at a movie theater and he enjoys playing basketball. He joined a dedicated team of coaches that became friends and welcoming participants who treat him like family. Before the Y, Brandon remembers he didn't have many work friends, because everyone was there to work. But at the Y, "I have coworkers who are friends. We build lasting friendships while we work."

Brandon knows the Y is family oriented in how they structure their programs and treat their members and staff. "No matter their background, they are welcomed here ... the Y is very accepting." Brandon says he experiences our family atmosphere daily when the parents of his players make jokes with him and welcome him as family.

More often than not, you can find Brandon on the basketball court, whether it is him playing a pick up game with some friends, practicing for his own Clark Elite season or teaching four and five

year olds how to play basketball. This is his fourth season working with children to improve their skills and learn our Christian principles on and off the court. "I like seeing how the kids improve over the season and change as a player." Brandon enjoys knowing he helped these youth get to where they are. "I've had lots of my players stop me in the halls here and say hi or give me hugs." One player Brandon has taught for three sessions. This player is four years old, and a terrific basketball player. "Watching him on the court doing spin moves and confidently playing is great. Especially knowing that I helped guide him there." He enjoys watching and coaching youth to reach their fullest potential.

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He also likes to make his players work harder to earn their achievements. “My mom taught me not to be lazy, so I make sure my players aren’t.” He credits a lot of his character development to both his older sister and mother. Though there is a two-year age difference, Brandon’s sister has helped him stay on track and lead an example of working hard for your dreams. His mom has been able to give him helpful life skills and tricks that he can use when he interacts with people at the Y—like making good impressions and presenting himself in a good way. Another mentor Brandon had was the former Youth Sports Director, Kellen Hawley. “Kellen made it enjoyable to work here and made me want to be here ... he helped me become a better coach and player, by guiding me through the work.”

Brandon hopes to continue his love for basketball after he graduates and studies Kinesology at Clark College, maybe one day becoming a

coach. He plans to continue his involvement with the Y as he grows and is encouraged by the lasting culture of the Y. “Watching a lot of families and members come in and experience the Y is really cool.”

Thank you Brandon for being a great servant to our Y staff and community. We enjoy your positivity and willingness to step in when you see a need.

We want to hear from you! How has the Y impacted you or your family’s life?

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