

# Impacting the Lives of High Schoolers

By: Daria Smith

Twenty-year-old, Stephanie Riddle, is in her junior year at Georgia Southern University with a major in outdoor recreation and is highly involved with Young Life. Her hobbies include yoga, studying the Bible, healthy eating, recreational outdoor activities, loving on animals, evoking joy in people, and hanging out with high school students. Riddle is the team leader at Southeast Bulloch High School for Statesboro Young Life, which is affiliated through GSU as an student organization.

Riddle is unsure of what she desires to pursue as a future career, but values the lord's plan over her own. Currently, she volunteers the majority of her time to Young Life. "I am passionate about Young Life because that's where I learned what it was like to have a relationship with God," said Riddle. "I finally got it."

Riddle possesses a vibrant, bubbly personality accompanied with strong communication skills. She is compassionate towards people and excels in treating every individual she encounters with kindness, despite his or her background or differences. Riddle rarely experiences conflict or intense frustration, which has made it difficult for her to process anger.

Riddle attended her first Young Life club in high school when her twin sister, Summer, begged her to tag along. She traveled to a Young Life camp in Colorado for a week during the summer after her senior year of high school. Riddle met Jesus and learned the value of having a personal relationship with him while in Colorado.

"The people involved with Young Life loved me for all the right reasons," said Riddle. "No matter what I was doing, even in my hard seasons of life, they loved me really well."

Before discovering Young Life and a personal relationship with Jesus, Riddle was lost and searched for her identity in things that did not fill her. Young Life invites Riddle to be a part of something bigger than herself, while giving her joy and a purpose.

“The best part about being a Young Life leader is getting to share the gospel with high school kids and getting the privilege of getting to do life with them,” said Riddle. “I know that we are helping high school students meet the lord in a way that’s different, in a way that’s welcoming.”

Riddle got plugged in with Young Life immediately because she desired to impact the lives of high schoolers and introduce them to Jesus. Riddle’s Young Life leader left a lasting impact on her life and she hopes to do the same for other high schoolers who are aimlessly attempting to find their worth in things that drain them.

Riddle originally went to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and was placed as a Young Life leader in Tifton, Georgia after her first semester of college. Riddle traveled to Statesboro, Georgia every other weekend to visit Summer, Georgia Southern student and Statesboro High School Young Life team leader.

Riddle fell in love with the Statesboro Young Life community and felt the lord calling her to leave Tifton. She transferred to GSU during the fall of her sophomore year and has been involved with Statesboro Young Life ever since.