

Tree Lighting Filming- North Canton

On Dec. 2, 2018, I was signed up to film a tree lighting for North Canton. I was very nervous because the type of camera we were using was not the kind that I was used to using. It is always good to learn new things and sometimes we need to be challenged with harder tasks in order to learn.

How it worked is we met at Hoover High School. We loaded up the storyteller with a lot of heavy stands. We then grouped up and drove to mainstreet by the North Canton YMCA to set up because that is where it would be held. Once we all arrived, set up began everyone had their own job, but I helped with carrying out the heavy stands and moving them to where I was directed. I also helped with moving the long cords, so I was one of the people in the assembly line as we moved the long cords. My next job was to help move the large heavy stands again this time we placed them in the position we would use to film. After that we were assigned cameras or other VP jobs like audio or technical director. I was assigned to a camera, I was the camera that was front and center. I was given a quick intro to how to use the camera and then all that's left to do was just wait.

Mr. McCarty had promised to buy our group Pizza for before we started since we had been there all day with no food, but he forgot. This was fine because I don't like most pizza anyway and probably would not have eaten it, but all the other kids working on the crew that day were pretty upset. We really didn't have much to do after everything was set up, all we could do was wait. While I was waiting and just checking out the camera something horrifying happened to me and that would be I was attacked

by a lady bug. It flew right into my coat. Like an insane person terrified of ladybug, I screamed took off and threw my jacket jumping off the podium. Lucky, Mr.McCarty got rid of the ladybug and then I was fine. After awhile people started to flood in and the tree lighting began. Essentially, the hardest part was working to keep the camera at a good exposure during the night. Changing shot focus and angles was easy, but not exposure. But yet again my camera was not working properly, which we didn't know at the time either, once my aperture was open all the way and it was still dark. I was instructed through my headset to turn it to high gain which I did and that helped a lot, but as the night went on the exposure kept getting worse and my camera was maxed out to try and make anything brighter. Apparently, my camera was the only dark one that was under exposed, so Mr.McCarty came out to try to see if I had a wrong setting, but when he check all my setting were fine.The camera was maxed out on all exposure settings to try and make it brighter. He said there must just be something wrong with the camera. Yet, despite this bump in the road, I still tried my best to film the best footage I could with my circumstances and some of it could be used. At the end of tree lighting a major storm rolled in with big wind gusts. It was the first time Hoover has had a wind storm hit during filming. Luckily we were able to hold the cameras steady and none of the equipment got damaged. We had to tear down all the equipment then in the storm and that was not fun.

I learned from this experience how to deal with thing that could go wrong, but to keep trying and work your way through problem situations. You must give it your all and not give up. But there was a silver lining to this event. After I was done filming there were lots of different organizations there and one of them had people come out dressed

as Disney princesses. So, I was able to take my picture with Snow White!

