

Beth Pottroff  
Long Form Story

The sun's rays shine down, touching the ground below. This is the season of summer.

Flowers blossom, tree's leaves blow in the breeze. Water becomes lukewarm, days start earlier and end later. The summertime frenzy is noticeable in the people too. People seem lighter somehow, happier, freer. Though humans are not as much seasonal creatures as other animals, warm weather has been proven to improve overall mood. Death rates are also lower and birth rates are higher when the weather is warmer according to the website [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com).

My dad, Dan Pottroff can attest to this fact. My dad is a middle-aged lowan farmer, who spends all days at his farm. He rises early to start his days.

"I find that I am less agitated when the weather is nicer," Pottroff said. "It's easier to wake up early and be motivated to start my day when the sun is up at the same time I am."

College students like myself spend their summers doing various activities. Some work full time jobs, others take summer classes, some take a vacation during the summertime. Sophomore Jordan Reece is currently spending her summer working a part time job in Maryville. Jordan works at Payless ShoeSource shoe store.

"I work around 20 hours a week," Reece said. "At nights I typically hang out with my friends who are still in town." Jordan enjoys going to the local bars with her friends or going out to Mozingo lake during the summertime.

Kyle Williams is a recent art graduate from Northwest. He is spending his summer creating art. He also is focusing on deciding where he wants to live now that he is graduated. Kyle recently went on a trip to Italy with some other Northwest students.

"Italy was beautiful and really inspiring," Williams said. "Going there has given me some more ideas on art I'd like to create."

I recently took a trip to Gulf Shores, Alabama, to go to the Hangout Music Festival. The Hangout Music Festival is a three day music event that takes place on the beach

my the Gulf of Mexico. While I was here, I took the time to ask other people what they are doing with their summers.

Madi is a 21 year old from Nashville, TN. She spends her summers helping at music festivals as a special effects coordinator. The Hangout is her first festival she is attending as just a viewer and not a worker.

“Being able to experience working at a music festival really helps me appreciate it more as a viewer,” Madi said. “There is so much work that goes into the entire event.”

Sophomore Shantel is a student at the University of Mississippi. She is studying English. For her, this music festival is the highlight of her summer. Her roommate Mary came with her to the music festival.

“This is our one big trip before we go back to school,” Mary said.

Dave is a 35 year old from Gulf Shores. He works construction during the summer. During his spare time he likes to check out events like the Hangout Festival.

“Gulf Shores is always pretty busy in the summertime, but during the Hangout Fest is when is the craziest,” Dave said.

Elena Villa is a 25 year old artist from Atlanta, Georgia.. She came to the Hangout Festival with a bunch of friends. During her summers, she spends time updating her artist website and drawing portraits for people. For her, going to festivals is a good time and also a way to talk to other artists she meets about her artwork.

26 year old Andrew Lochow helped volunteer at the Hangout Music Festival. He spends the majority of his time at his job. He counsels children in need of behavioral therapy. He spends his spare time volunteering at music festivals and playing small gigs in his band.

“Volunteering at music festivals is a really good way to see lots of great music for a cheap price or for free,” Lochow said.

Andrew enjoys behavioral therapy because he likes to help kids grow and learn how to live normal lives regardless of any behavioral problems they may have.

“I work with lots of kids who have autism, ADHD, OCD, or any kind of behavioral problem,” Andrew said. “I really love helping kids be able to live the best life possible.”

Summertime for many is that glorious time of year when we act more spontaneous than usual. Moods improve, days grow longer, smiles grow bigger. During the summertime we can all agree, that living happy is easy.



Hangout Crowd



Hangout Crowd



Madi and her flamingo