Ashlyn Stephens’ Bucket List

Top 5=Highlighted and Explained

* **Travel**
1. Travel to Japan and buy a lot of anime/nerd merchandise
2. Travel to the UK and explore surrounding Europe

Traveling around Europe is in my top 5 bucket list “items” because I love learning about other countries, their history and their cultures & customs. Many of the countries that I am interested in are in Europe and travel is often easy between them because of their-relatively-close proximity to each other.

1. Travel to (and see the major landmarks of) every state in the United States
* **Activities**
1. See *Anastasia* on Broadway
2. Walk/Run a marathon
3. Make/cook a 5-course meal
* **Hobbies**
1. Write a book/blog

Writing a book/blog is in my top 5 bucket list “items” because I have always loved reading and find the notion that a piece of someone can “live on” after their death through literature/the written word. It would be amazing to know that people could still get to know me and appreciate my work, stories and ideas after I am gone.

1. Make a successful YouTube channel
2. Learn how to make computer animation and create a video/short (Disney/cartoon)
3. Learn to fluently speak Spanish, French and Japanese

Learning new languages (such as French and Japanese) and improving my Spanish are in my top 5 bucket list “items” because, just as I love learning about other countries, I also love learning about languages; learning Spanish and French would also help me in my travels around Europe. While Japan is not in Europe, I am a big anime fan and it would be cool to be able to watch some of the shows and know what the characters are saying without subtitles or playing the English audio versions.

1. Learn how to ice skate
2. Learn how to surf
3. Improve my photography; (possibly) create a photography blog
4. Take underwater pictures
* **Life**
1. Buy me & my parents a nice house

Buying my family and I a nice house is in my top 5 bucket list “items” because I think it would be a nice way to show my parents how much I appreciate them while making things easier for them (they wouldn’t have to fix so many things as on our current house).

1. Start a business

Starting/creating a business is in my top 5 bucket list “items” because, similar to writing a book/blog, I like the idea of leaving behind a “legacy” of sorts. I also think that it would be nice to create something (a product, store, restaurant, etc.) that I am passionate about and that would help others/make them happy (while also making money).

1. Have an “Uncommon” pet (Ex: deer, fox, etc.)
2. Live (at least temporarily) abroad/outside of the United States
3. Adopt a child
4. Fall in love (and be loved in return)
5. Reach my goal weight + live a healthier lifestyle

Ashlyn Stephens’ Eulogy

***Viewpoint:*** *Someone close to Ashlyn speaking about Ashlyn*

“Thank you” to everyone gathered here today; I know that Ashlyn would have appreciated your presence. Ashlyn was a shining soul whose compassion, dedication and positive attitude affected everyone around her; everyone in this room has been touched by her life and personality. Her genuine enthusiasm and love of learning, children, all things “nerd” and her friends and family made her a uniquely refreshing presence that we will always remember; Winnie the Pooh’s feelings reflect my own,

 “*How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.*”

-Winnie the Pooh

Ashlyn was my something.

A lover of all things Disney, cartoons, movies and magic, she was a child at heart who made it her mission to make those around her feel better; community and helping others was a large part of who she was. Her profession as a teacher was driven by this aspect of her personality and her love for school and education. Valedictorian of the Norwood class of 2017, Ashlyn understood the importance and value of education and wanted to help others recognize and foster their own appreciation of education.

Ashlyn was an old soul who often claimed to be have been born in the wrong decade (yet she would have missed today’s technology; her interests ranged from the Beatles and rock songs of the seventies to Pokémon, the latest TV shows and pop music. She was an avid reader and video game player who often sought refuge from reality in fictive worlds (in books, movies and games) and often positively portrayed her “time wasted” (in the opinion of some) in conjunction with John Lennon’s quote:

“*Time you enjoy wasting is was not wasted.”*

-John Lennon

Ashlyn’s humor, enthusiasm and spirit will always linger in our minds and hearts. So, to amend the opening quote, let us not say ‘goodbye’ for ‘goodbye’ has a sense of finality and closure; let us say instead ‘until next time’. As Peter Pan says,

“*Never say goodbye because saying goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting*”

-Peter Pan

We will remember Ashlyn and how she has influenced and inspired us until we fly away to our own Neverlands. Ashlyn, we will hold your memory, and our love for you, forever in our hearts.