

HALEE

OCCUPATION: College Student



Halee is a scoliosis patient at APC, but that has not stopped her from an active, lively life, including participating in athletics and competing for the Miss Maine Teen 2015 title. Here, she shares her thoughts.

When did you first learn about scoliosis and what was your reaction?

I'd always known my mother had scoliosis but had no real idea of what that meant other than her spine wasn't straight. When I first found out I had it, I wasn't worried because I saw that my mom was doing fine. After seeing the brace, I got scared and realized things were serious.

Top 3 things people who don't have scoliosis don't understand:

1. I'm capable of doing everything that you can.
2. Even though I'm strong, making fun of my curvature or brace still hurts.
3. Do not feel bad for me. Everybody has a struggle they must endure in life. Scoliosis just happens to be mine.

The rudest thing someone has said about your curvature:

Although no one has commented on my actual spine, people have said some mean-spirited things about my brace, such as calling me a robot.

The best things about having scoliosis:

You'll come out stronger in the end. You'll be better at recognizing that people can be fighting battles you know nothing about.

If there were a scoliosis superhero, his or her name would be:

The Curvy Conqueror!

The best advice you'd give someone with scoliosis:

Follow your treatment plan. Whether the plan is to brace or surgically intervene, your doctor knows best. If you don't fight through the hardship now, things will become increasingly worse as time goes on. It may be hard right now but remember, things can always get worse.