

CAKE TEEN'S

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Whitney Houston sang in a 1980's song about how, "the children are our future." No one ever knows whom the next Bill Gates, President of the United States, Iron Chef, or Beyonce Knowles will be. Here in the land of enchantment, we have found a young lady who is headed for great success. She is only 15 years old and has already started her own business. Caycee Smith who resides in Rio Rancho, New Mexico may be the next, "ACE of Cakes." Caycee started her cake decorating by taking a class at Michaels during the summer and with the help of her parents has turned in what she so enjoys to an after school job.

NMEWPM: Who are the cake teens?

Cake Teen's: Caycee Smith, 15 years of age.

NMEWPM: How long have you been decorating cakes?

Cake Teen's: I have been decorating cakes since I was 9 and I took cake-decorating classes at Michaels over the summer of 2007 where I advanced my skills and learned new techniques.

NMEWPM: What flavor of cakes, fillings and frosting types?

Cake Teen's: Cake Flavors; Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry and Butter. Fillings: Vary. Frostings: Butter Cream, Chocolate, Strawberry, Almond and Coconut

NMEWPM: What types of Cakes do you decorate and offer?

Cake Teen's: Cakes for all occasions

NMEWPM: Do you offer any other pastries besides cakes?

Cake Teen's: Cupcakes, that's about it for now.

NMEWPM: What enticed you to even start up your own business?

Cake Teen's: I was watching ACE of cakes and other cake shows on TV. One day shopping at Michaels and I saw how they offered cake-decorating classes. I took all of them, one after the other and had so much fun doing it. Bringing all those cakes home from class, my family friends and neighbors could not get enough of them. So I thought, why not make a business out of this?

NMEWPM: Approximately, how many cake orders do you take on per week or per month?

Cake Teen's: There are some weeks I have 2-4 cakes to make and other weeks no cakes. I did have one month where I made at least twenty cakes.

NMEWPM: If you had a "normal" after-school job, do you feel that you would make the same, more or less money in comparison to your cake business?

Cake Teen's: Compared to a normal after school job, I say I could make more money baking and decorating cakes if my business would become more known.

NMEWPM: Do you make cakes for your friends when it's their birthday or for any other special occasion?

Cake Teen's: I made some for friends instead of a birthday gift, and I have made cakes for New Mexico Animal Friends to auction off as a donation.

NMEWPM: What special occasion cakes have you all made? (Baby Showers, Birthday's, Graduations, etc)

Cake Teen's: I made cakes for Baby Showers, a Giftware Cake for my friend Katie, numerous Tinkerbell Birthday cakes, Bumble Bee business cake, birthday cakes for my family and friends, Christmas cakes, dog decorated cakes for NMAF, a castle cake for my cousin, a ghost cake, cupcakes for Valentines Day and have an anniversary cake scheduled for this summer.





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NMEWPM: Have you had other teenage friends or family who has wanted to jump on board with you all?

Cake Teen's: As for my friends wanting to help, yes I did have a few. My business was originally named, "Cake Teen's," however my partner decided to take another route and I will soon be naming my business, "Cakes by Caycee." Other friends were interested but felt it was too much work. I have concluded that if you do something just for the money, its no fun, but if you do something you have fun doing, its no work.

NMEWPM: How much involvement do your parents have, to assist you?

Cake Teen's: My mom helps me with the icing of the cakes when I have more than one cake to do as well as advice on what colors go well together and decorating tips.

NMEWPM: I know sometimes teenagers aren't taken seriously; even 20 year olds experience the same thing. Do you feel that you run into this obstacle being you are so young? If so, do you feel that your parents have to get involved in the situation to assist you?

Cake Teen's: I do run into this a lot. I have had quite a few people call with a cake order, and then when they find out how old/young I am, they cancel the order. But, there are others who see my website with the cakes I have made, or after having a tasting, will trust me with their order.

NMEWPM: What plans do you have for after high school? (College, working, etc)

Cake Teen's: After high school, I plan on attending Culinary Art School to advance my skills in baking and decorating cakes.

NMEWPM: What are your plans for your Cake Teen's business after college?

Cake Teen's: I hope to own my own business after college. I would love to have a show on the food network channel like, "ACE of Cakes."

NMEWPM: If I wanted to order one of your cakes, how far in advance do I need to place my order?

Cake Teen's: It depends on the type of cake, a birthday cake, I prefer one to two weeks. Something similar to an anniversary cake, I would need at least five to six weeks advance notice. The sooner the better.

NMEWPM: How do I get in contact with you to place an order?

Cake Teen's: I can be contacted via e-mail at cakesbycaycee@yahoo.com or by visiting my website at <http://cakesteens.synthasite.com>.

NMEWPM: What are your hours of operation?

Cake Teen's: I plan all my cake orders around my school schedule so anytime after school or on the weekends.

NMEWPM: What recommendations do you have for any teenager wanting to start his or her own business?

Cake Teen's: My advice to teenagers interested in starting their own business would be to make sure you want to do whatever you want to do for the long run and have fun doing it! Too many people just fall into a career and are unhappy with it after a while. Try different things before you make a decision. The best thing is to do something you have fun doing and get paid for it!

Caycee has a bright future ahead of her. She not only is the future in the wedding and event industry but this young lady has already made such a great accomplishment by starting her own business. More importantly, with her ambition and positive attitude, she already has the necessary tools any small business owner wants to achieve is to, "do something you have fun doing and get paid for it!"

