

Name: Morgan Valle

Year: Junior

Position: Miss Auburn, Ballot Position # 3

Major: Communication Disorders

Qualifications:

Student Recruiters

Panhellenic Pi Chi

Tiger Tuesdays: Politics and Leadership

Tiger Splashers

Social Sorority: New Member Educator

We all remember hearing about the tornados that destroyed parts of Tuscaloosa and affected the students of the University of Alabama last year. The impact was devastating with 7,000 buildings destroyed and 41 lives lost. The students and the City of Tuscaloosa were not prepared. When the storm hit, many thought that it was just another drill. At the end of November, Auburn experienced its own scare when tornados were reported in the area. Campus was shut down, and many homes received significant damage. I remember being on campus, and thinking that it was noon on a Wednesday, so it was just another drill. It wasn't just another drill and the campus was shut down momentarily and the students on campus were instructed to take cover. We were lucky compared to the damage that impacted Tuscaloosa. The outcome here in Auburn could have been much worse. My mission this week is to raise awareness around campus about just how serious natural disasters are, and what we can do to be prepared and how to help if it does happen in our area. My dream is to combine the efforts of the Lee County Red Cross, and the Auburn Chapter of the Red Cross Club and the Auburn Fire Department to increase disaster preparedness and relief efforts on our campus. I hope to bring increased volunteer drives in the event of a local disaster, and even create large groups of Auburn students to branch out to other areas in our state who are in need of our help. Not only that, but I hope to create disaster packets to distribute to Auburn Students to help them know what to do if disaster does strike our area. We can't predict when a disaster will strike, but we can be prepared if it does happen. The Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in the United States. Disaster Volunteers receive training through the Red Cross to help others. When disaster strikes, the Red Cross and its volunteers distribute needed materials such as food and water, assess and catalog the damage, send response vehicles, and open shelters and hotels for the now homeless victims. Being a disaster volunteer is more than just community service; it's more than just giving back. It's giving your time and efforts to help rebuild our home here in Auburn and the homes and lives of others. So remember on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> to "Give More" and Vote Morgan Valle for Miss Auburn.