When I was a kid, there weren’t a lot of things for young people, especially girls, to learn about the ocean. You basically had to learn how to operate in the water on your own and your parents had to watch you all the time.

A year younger than Steele, Gemma Marx just completed her third year in the CMBP. “I love the camp,” she said. “It’s like when you are in school, you have a class with a chain of people. If every person isn’t doing their best, it just won’t work.”

Marx admits that some aspects of being a life-guard still give her “a little anxiety” for her but her coaches are very supportive and helped her grow under the junior guard leadership team.

“If I was swimming to-day and saw someone in trouble, I would definitely try to help,” she added.

 Lt. Pete Pietras runs Cape May’s Junior Lifeguard program. “It’s not only for the kids, current guards love it too,” said Pietras. “It’s a great way to pass on some knowledge to younger lifeguards.”

The Junior Lifeguard program was started by veteran guard and current chief there, Pietras took over as Cape May’s Junior Lifeguard program coordinator after the CMBP next summer. He works on behalf of Mogck in 2012.

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