

## VOLUNTEERS

## MAO WENJIE

## Like father, like daughter

Mao Wenjie never understood why her father was so devoted to his work in media services on the organizing committee of the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing over the past three years.

Her dad didn't even ask for a day's leave to accompany her when she took the stressful college entrance examination last year. Nor did he rest after getting sick with stomach problems; he just resumed his work after a gastroscopy.

To learn more about his zeal, the freshman at the Nanjing University of Finance and Economics applied to become a volunteer for the Youth Olympic Games and has spent all her weekends in training since Spring Festival.

In her role to work at awards ceremonies, Mao endured rigorous exercises including standing straight against a wall with books on her head and a piece of paper between her legs. She just finished 15 days of intensified training, which included a daily 2,000-meter running.

"The training is tough but I won't give up. It helps me to hone my will," said Mao. She



surprised her mother when she returned home from the training venue on her own with heavy luggage on her back.

"Now I have the same sense of responsibility as my father to do my job well and work with my teammates to present an amazing Youth Olympic Games for visitors from all around the world," she said.

The Nanjing native said that through training she has also learned a lot about sports, etiquette and the history and culture of her hometown — knowledge that "cannot be learned in school textbooks".

Mao's father is proud of his daughter and helps her practice poses and etiquette at home. He also texts her often to encourage her during those tough training days.

Mao, 19, says she is excited to wear fine dresses at the awards ceremonies and expects to present awards to Chinese athletes.

"Although we volunteers are not the protagonists of the Games, we can provide beautiful scenery and a glossy postcard of Nanjing, with our energy and by impressing our foreign guests," she said.

— XU JINGXI

## SUN YIFAN

## Hard-working and devoted, student happy to be part of it

Sun Yifan is a veteran among the volunteers for the Youth Olympic Games — he was also a volunteer at the Asian Youth Games in the city last year.

He is well aware of how to prepare for the challenging job of receiving Games' sponsors from all over the world. He started training in mid-July; improving his English, learning Western reception etiquette, listing 200 English lines that may be in common use at his job and also learning phrases in French and Korean.

The 21-year-old sophomore at the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics chose to spend his first two summer vacations at college running about in the scorching sun between sports venues rather than traveling or taking internships because he said being a volunteer at an international event was his "long cherished goal".

"I really envied the volunteers who had the opportunity to participate in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games when I watched the Games on TV. Now I'm excited to have the opportunity to be a volunteer at such big events in Nanjing and show what I have learned to the world with national pride," Sun said.

He worked about 10 hours a day — 18 hours a day during the busiest time — during the Asian Youth Games last year.



"But the team spirit I learned and the friendships I built with other volunteers have made it a precious memory for me and motivated me to continue working at this year's Youth Olympic Games," Sun said.

Hosting two big international sports events in a row, people in Nanjing have developed an understanding of voluntary work and have showed great support, Sun said.

He recalled that people were surprised when large groups of volunteers, dressed in their uniforms, walked into the subway during the Asian Youth Games.

"But now people can tell we are volunteers for the Youth Olympic Games from our uniforms and will offer us their seats on the subway, showing their gratitude for our hard work and cheering us up," Sun said.

— XU JINGXI

## KALSANGTSO

## Quake awakens Tibetan's passion

After the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, Tibetan Kalsangtso realized she was lucky to be alive and that she should make good use of her life. She has since passionately taken up volunteer work.

Kalsangtso was sitting in her classroom at a senior high school in Mianyang, Sichuan province, when the earthquake started. Seeing huge cracks in the walls, she ran out of the classroom and made a dash to the playground.

Luckily, her teachers and schoolmates didn't suffer any serious injuries but the earthquake cut off the road to her home in Jiuzhaigou.

So, Kalsangtso stayed in the town to work as a volunteer to help those who escaped from the harder-hit areas and were seeking shelter at the town's gymnasium. She handed out food, drinks and clothes.

"It touched me a lot to see donations delivered to the gymnasium from across the country and to see volunteers from all over China come to work



together to help the quake victims," she said.

Kalsangtso applied to become a volunteer for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games immediately after she saw the recruitment notice. Now, the 22-year-old college

junior is on a team of 26 ceremonial girls from the Nanjing University of Science and Technology.

"Besides Nanjing natives, the volunteers also include a lot of young people who come to Nanjing for college. A successful Youth Olympic Games depends on the combined efforts by people nationwide, which is similar to the earthquake relief," Kalsangtso said.

As the only Tibetan in her team, Kalsangtso said she would love to promote Tibetan culture at the Games.

"It is my pleasure to answer questions about Tibetan culture from other volunteers and participants in the Games from around the world," Kalsangtso said.

"It is also a good opportunity for me to learn more about my culture. It's a shame that the Tibetan culture is not being passed on properly to younger generations in my hometown in Jiuzhaigou as tourism has taken over the place."

— XU JINGXI

## BAI DONGRUN

## A midnight run for the Games

To participate in the Nanjing 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games as a volunteer, Bai Dongrun rushed from the capital of Jiangsu province to his hometown in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia autonomous region — 1,639 kilometers away from Nanjing — by train to get a new ID card.

The student from the Nanjing University of Science and Technology was anxious when he knew that the expiry date of his ID card was earlier than was required to be qualified to be a volunteer for the quadrennial event.

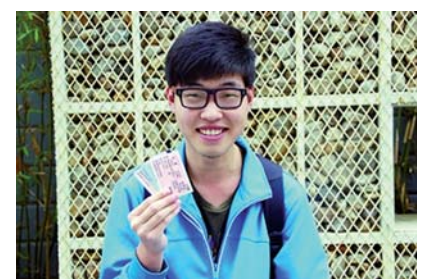
He decided to go back home to get a new ID card, although a round trip would cost 1,100 yuan and take him 55 hours on the train.

While his schoolmates had a relaxing time during the three-day Tomb Sweeping Day holiday, Bai was busy rushing back and forth between Nanjing and Chifeng.

The moment he finished classes on April 4, Bai dashed to the train station to travel to Beijing, the transfer station between Jiangsu and Inner Mongolia.

It was midnight when he arrived but there was no train leaving for Inner Mongolia at that time. The student leaned on a pillar at the train station for some sleep.

Having spent only two days with his family, Bai went to the police station on



April 8, the first working day after the holiday, to apply for a new ID card. Then he rushed back home to upload the new expiry date online.

"My mind wasn't at rest until I saw the website saying that my ID card information was submitted successfully," said Bai, who later returned to school in Nanjing the same day.

Bai's father was not impressed by his decision to exhaust himself but Bai thought it was worth the trouble because "he didn't want to miss the Youth Olympic Games".

Bai wanted to work as a volunteer at the Asian Youth Games in Nanjing last year but his parents wanted him to spend time with his grandmother who was in poor health.

"I missed the opportunity of working as a volunteer at the Asian Youth Games in Nanjing last year and I don't want to miss the opportunity again at this year's Youth Olympic Games," Bai said.

— XU JINGXI