

Jonathan Nelson - AmeriCorps-Summer-2004

Audubon and Comiskey Playground

When you dedicate a portion of your time to helping young people develop academically, and socially, there is an expected amount of success and disappointment to be experienced. My first term with AmeriCorps has ended, but my dedication to better my community is just now being realized. During the summer I had the opportunity to share my hours between Audubon playground, summer school classrooms, and teaching summer camps. Some programs were more challenging than others, but all were valuable experiences.

Teaching a *Robotics* class at the NICC summer camp was a responsibility that scared me at first. However, I accepted the challenge, and began gaining knowledge of the curriculum. By the time the camp began I gained an understanding of the material, and felt ready to share my knowledge. Like all teaching situations the week was full of both professional and personal challenges. It developed into a week that taught me about young people, teaching, and myself.

Playing flag football was a nightly favorite.

This group was at the begging stages of building their robot.

My summer with AmeriCorps could be summarized as interesting, challenging, and rewarding.