

Sarah Paisley - AmeriCorps Summer 2003-2004

Camps and Comiskey Playground

This was my second term of service for AmeriCorps. It was so exciting to see the familiar faces and find out what had happened since I last saw them. Every day, when I arrived at the playground, I found that the kids needed something from me. Sometimes it was to organize a game, other times they wanted to tell me a story or show me something they had made. I also wanted to be someone they could trust, someone who was looking out for their best interests (even if they didn't always agree with what I was telling them).

Fizz, Bubble, Goo Camp brought hands on academic learning. It was so much fun to teach chemistry in a very interactive and (sometimes) sticky way! The children were learning and having fun.



Working through the summer involved camps, gardening and Jumpstart Kindergarten. As I hope to have my own classroom very soon, these opportunities are getting me ready to be a teacher. Some nights I returned home tired, sweaty, occasionally frustrated, and stressed out. But I always look forward to the next day, which held another opportunity to make a difference.



Comiskey playground had a Fourth of July Parade. The kids made decorations for their bikes and themselves.

There were days when I lacked the energy to play athletic games with them, but the kids were looking for more than just a playground leader. They were looking for someone to pay attention to them.