

Bridget Ouellette- AmeriCorps Summer 2002 Rotator Position

Since this is my second term, I knew what I was getting into and what to expect. I decided to take the 450- hour position instead of 350. Knowing I am only able to do two terms, I wanted to get as much out of this as I could. I would not say one summer was better than the other, but I do have to say I enjoyed both. I feel I was able to get a lot more out of this summer since I came in knowing more.

I hated to see the summer come to an end. I was able to experience many different things with my rotating position. I love that I was able to work with a variety of children. I was able to be a role model in a classroom, but also out on the playground. I feel I got a well-rounded experience over my past two year with AmeriCorps. It will be hard to not be able to come back next summer and see many of the kids and how much they have grown. It was unbelievable to see the growth in the kids I worked with for both summers. I have said it before; this is a job that has taught me so many things, not just about children, but about myself. It is rewarding for me to see change and improvement in the kids, but I feel I have grown too. They teach you things in a classroom to prepare you, but the best preparation is when you are able to work with the kids. I had a wonderful summer and have had a rewarding two years with AmeriCorps.



On, July 27th, we took four kids from Comiskey playground to a Chicago Fire soccer game. These four kids came to the playground a lot and they were well behaved. All of our AmeriCorps members felt they were a pleasure to have around and thought they would enjoy this nice treat. And they did!!

We made many field trips. Almost every Wednesday night, we would ride the Trolley to various places throughout Dubuque. Here the kids enjoy Peter Rabbit's Garden at the Arboretum.



After hiking the trails at Swiss Valley Park, we got a game of touch football going.