

Jennifer Lange- AmeriCorps Summer 2003 Dubuque Community Y

As I began my second term with AmeriCorps, I looked at it as an excellent way to make money during the summer. By the end of the summer I knew my decision to once again join AmeriCorps was not just one that helped me earn money for school, but one that changed my life. I was somewhat excited because my main placement was one I had served in previously and I knew that there would never be a dull moment. I was placed at the Dubuque Community Y's Cool School Program for 450 hours.

My time with the children was spent doing various activities. We went on at least two field trips every week. One of my favorite activities I did with them was the multicultural kit. Before I made the animalitos with them, I told them what they were and a little about them. I was sure it had gone in one ear and right out the other, but then my supervisor came in and asked them what they were doing. To my surprise they told her they were making animalitos and they told her what animalitos were. The only disappointment I had with the kits was that I didn't have more time to do it.



The kids had a great time making projects from the multicultural kit.

The kids stop at the Zoo to take a picture with the giraffe.



After the first few weeks of the program, I realized that working with children is where my heart truly lies and went up to school to change my major to elementary education. Although this means an extra year of school and tons of wasted credits it does not bother me in the least. I know now that I will get to spend the rest of my life doing something that I truly enjoy.



Over the summer I was given the opportunity to work with the jump start kindergarten program in the Dubuque schools.

