

Josh Rissman- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

Comiskey

During my 300-hour term with AmeriCorps I was placed at Comiskey and Audubon playgrounds. Although I spent the majority of my time at Comiskey, I was able to get to know some of the Audubon kids. I did everything from playing four-square almost every night to giving kids pushes on the swings to making arts and crafts projects. I was also able to be involved in a program directed toward preschool age children and teaching the basic components of baseball. The children would come with an adult and we would work on throwing and catching skills. It was a great chance to work with a different age population. My term of service also allowed me to work in the morning hours at two local elementary schools, Hoover and Kennedy, to help with the summer school programming.

We ended the Smart Start Baseball program with a T-Ball game. The kids had a blast.



While serving in AmeriCorps I encountered children with different needs and abilities. Through my interactions with these children, I learned more about myself and they also showed me how many things I take for granted in my life. I really enjoyed the time I had with the children I worked with. By keeping a positive attitude, doing my best to be there for each individual child, and by trying to make each activity a fun and learning experience, I feel that the children also enjoyed the time I spent with them. Some of the simple things that happen are the things that touched me the most. If I could make a child smile or laugh when they were feeling down, that would make my day. Being in AmeriCorps is a great experience for anyone, but especially those including myself, who plan to go into the teaching profession.

From playing Four-Square to helping at Summer School, my summer was always full.

