

Mike Dodds- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

Audubon

I was able to volunteer 300 hours for AmeriCorps in Summer 2003. I saw this opportunity to serve others as a great experience for me to have a wonderful job interacting with youth. I knew I would gain personally through being a positive role model to the kids, and making them happy for the six hours I spent with them a day.

Along with my responsibilities at Audubon and Comiskey, I had the opportunity to be an instructor with Fish Iowa. This program gave children the chance to learn the basics about fishing and the understanding of the eco-system in which it takes place. I enjoyed this program for the pure excitement of the kids when they caught a fish. The most important thing for myself was to have fun with the kids. Each Wednesday night, we were able to take the kids from Audubon and Comiskey to different places around Dubuque.



On the final day we took the kids to the River Museum. Here they learn about the river through an interactive exhibit.

I might not have completely changed the kids that I worked with through the summer at Comiskey and Audubon, but that wasn't up to me, that was up to the kids, but I gave them a choice. I gave them a choice to not fear or have a lack of self-knowledge of themselves and the environment around them. Rather I gave them a chance to look at me as an opportunity and an example to question, wonder, and grow.

The older I become the more and more I seem to think I have no more to learn, my wisdom far exceeds others, and there is not an experience that can make me question, wonder, and grow as much as I have in life. This is nothing but a lie. Life is an experience, and we do nothing but grow in every moment. AmeriCorps has given me the chance to see this.



Here is one Wednesday night trip to Storybook Hill. We really had a great time on these trips.