

Molly Kisting- AmeriCorps Summer 2003 Dubuque Community Y

I have found my recent AmeriCorps experience to be a completely different adventure than my past term of service. I was faced with many more obstacles and I really felt I made a difference in the lives I touched at the Dubuque Community Y.

Volunteering at the Dubuque Community Y made me realize that I shouldn't take things for granted. Many children have very bad home lives and looked forward to the many things we planned for them. We planned tons of activities and field trips to keep these children active during the summer. I was surprised to hear some of the children have never been to a zoo before or even the Dubuque County Fair. Each child was able to experience these things over the summer.



We visited the Ham House and were treated as school children back in the 1800's. Then we shot off our rockets made from an educational kit at Eagle Point Park.



Over the summer I worked very closely with a child. He really taught me how to accept children as they are. He was always hugging me and telling me how much he enjoyed me being his teacher. To have a child tell you this day in and day out really makes you realize how much you can impact someone else's life. This has showed me the benefits of working with children and made me realize this summer more than ever why I want to be a teacher.

This year I worked very hard to "get things done." I feel I really make an important contribution to America's future. I helped to instill in them an education and also teach them about the environment, public safety, and human needs. These children are our future so I think it was beneficial to teach them these things so they meet the nation's unmet needs as they progress through their lives. Together the children and I were partners in learning. Not only did I teach them, but they also taught me tons of lessons that can never be taught by any professor or adult until you work with the children directly.



It was required each day to have fun! And we did.

