

Nick Stumpf- AmeriCorps Summer 2003

Rotator

During my second term of AmeriCorps I was placed in a rotator position and had the chance to do many different things over the summer. I was again involved in the Fish Iowa program, helping with one day camps at local ponds and streams in the community. Fish Iowa teaches children that have never fished before how to and educates the young fisherman how to fish ethically and effectively. At the conclusion of every day camp, the children were given booklets and brochures to encourage the children to share information with others and to excite them about fishing even after the camp.



Whether it was helping the kids make fishing poles out of cans or working on activities at the Library, the kids and I always had a good time.



I spent a large percentage of my time at Audubon and Comiskey helping provide educational programming. The last day we were on the playground, we made homemade ice cream and root beer with the children. During this day I took the opportunity to teach the children some of the properties involved in ice cream making and how carbon dioxide sublimates.



Here we chug the root beer we made.



We were only with some of the children three hours a day, but for those three hours we were everything to them. AmeriCorps not only provided them with fun activities, but with appropriate discipline, safety, opportunities to experience life outside of the neighborhood, good role modeling, friendships, and many other positive aspects that they have not yet experienced. AmeriCorps has given me a chance to learn from the lives of those that are different from me. Diversity enriches the mind with its experience and opens the mind up to new experiences.