

Jonah Spitz

Reflection

Going to Brooklyn last year really made an impact on my life, so I wanted to do more service trips. On that trip I made so many new friends and unforgettable memories. I thought there was no way Far Rockaway could be that good, but I was happily proven wrong. Far Rockaway made me feel a close connection to the house that I was working at, and I was able to share this experience with my friends.

As we got on the bus bright and early I already felt a special vibe around everyone. We were all eager to get to our destination and start helping out. I must say the trip started with a success as we all got to take in the beautiful view of the beach and capture pictures. For most of the trip we were all stationed at different houses that needed refurbishing. The house that I worked at needed windows taped, dust picked up and walls painted.

At first, I just did the minimum and tried to just get the job done, but after thinking about it I realized I needed to give one hundred and ten percent. I tried putting myself in the shoes of these people. Their houses were completely destroyed and lost everything. They have kids to take care of and the least we could do is help out with the physical labor. Knowing that I was doing this type of labor for these families felt fulfilling and rewarding. Coming and going to this house over a two day span made me feel accomplished and wanting to help more.

All in all this was a very successful J teen service trip. After I got off the bus I told my mom I wanted to do another trip. She asked me "What is so great about these service trips?" I told her that aside from doing the right thing, it's a great bonding moment where you engage in outer grade mingling and be apart of a great organization. I recommend to all the teenagers out there to try a J teen trip and they will not be disappointed. After realizing how grateful I am to have the things in my life I am now motivated to help others who are not as grateful. For this reason, I have joined the upcoming service trip to Oklahoma and help with tornado relief. I can't wait to finish with that same positive end result that I got out of the Far Rockaway trip.