

Philly Service Trip Essay

The J-teen service trip to Philadelphia is an experience that I will remember for a very long time because of the incredible impact we had on some peoples' lives in only one weekend. The JRA was the organization that I liked the most for two reasons: Firstly, the way everybody worked so cooperatively in a very hectic, crowded space was amazing to witness and take part in. With everybody striving to achieve the same goal, to finish packing all of the food packages, it created an enjoyable environment where I felt that I was making an impact. Furthermore, after filling all of the boxes, we went to deliver some to people who really needed them, and the recipients were extremely thankful. Being able to see who I was helping took the work that I did a step further because I got to go through the entire process and leave nothing to other people to do for me. I also loved working at the Boys and Girls Club because when helping children that are around my age and younger, it is easier for me to relate to and empathize with them. I pictured myself when I was a little kid being in that Boys and Girls Club with all my friends and it made the work more special because I personally wanted to give the children who go there the best conditions to have fun and learn together, similar to what I had growing up. Another great experience that the group had was in Chinatown. While observing and learning the history of a mural, a man came up to us that had experienced what was being portrayed first hand and told us about his experience in that time. This was truly amazing because this man is a part of history in Philadelphia and especially Chinatown, so being able to learn from him and hear his story really brought the occurrence to life. Between the community service work, touring Philly, and spending time with old and new friends, this trip was a fantastic way to learn more about myself and the community in the city.