Junior Combines Love of Travel and Serving Others

One of the keys to a successful community service placement is finding something that is both rewarding and enjoyable. That is exactly what Class II student Nora Collins was able to do this summer with a service learning trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

“It was hard work, but you were able to see a lot and have fun,” stated Nora about her service trip. “It motivated me to improve my Spanish and I feel more confident than I did before the trip.”

Nora heard about the program from a friend and applied online last spring. She was with a group of 20 high school students from around the world, cutting invasive species with a machete, helping build a greenhouse and a composting toilet and working on a reforestation project in the rainforest, all while becoming more aware of issues people face in this part of the world.

While the work was hard, the travel opportunity was exceptional. Nora went to the Galapagos Islands, the Andes Mountains and the Amazon rainforest with the students and group leaders from Life-works International. For those considering a service learning project, Nora said that the program was well organized and that she made several friends, some of whom she continues to Skype with.

Summer Camp Work & Play

Many young people attend summer camp. It is an exciting part of growing up. Camps are also a great place to volunteer and that is exactly what Taran Wise, BLS ’15, did this past summer.

After spending several summers as a camper at the JCC Grossman Camp in Westwood, Taran decided to volunteer as a Counselor in Training (CIT). He spent 7 weeks working with young people at the camp, doing everything from archery and swimming to overnight trips.

Taran enjoyed spending his summer at the camp. “It was a good opportunity to work with kids,” he stated, “even though some of them did not always cooperate.”

A student-athlete at BLS (football and wrestling) Taran took naturally to the summer camp sports, but he said that he enjoyed all of the different activities with which he was involved. These included arts and crafts, music, dance and other activities in addition to sports.

Taran said that the overnights were his favorite part of the summer and since he was a CIT he was able to have fun like a camper while still having some of the responsibilities.

GET INVOLVED!
Volunteer at BLS and in your community. You can make a difference, have fun and meet new people.

Opening World of Music for Kids

After initially hesitating, Class III student Edward Wang decided to spend part of his summer volunteering at the Community Music Center of Boston’s Summer-MUSIC program. It is a decision that he does not regret.

“I really liked helping other kids, stated Edward about his experience. “I hope that I was able to open up a world of music for them as others did for me when I was younger.”

For four weeks this summer Edward rose early and reported to the Josiah Quincy Elementary school where he worked with music students in grades 3 to 7.

Edward and the other BLS volunteers assisted with the music classes, performing a variety of tasks throughout the day. In the morning they helped to set up the rehearsal spaces and get ready for the students. During the performance classes, he modeled proper playing and assisted the students. In the afternoon he assisted the instructors with the small group and individual instruction.

While Edward enjoyed the program and said that he would recommend it to other BLS students he did regret one thing. “I had to get up very early every day while some of my friends got to sleep late and hang on Twitter!

You can learn all about the most recent community service opportunities available to Boston Latin School students by following us @BLSCommService