

La'Von Campbell  
City Kids Senior Scholarship Essay  
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Too many people's lives seem meaningless. The City Kids Wilderness Program showed me that you have to search for meaning in life. Before the summer of 2008, I had to complete my middle school summer packet, as was expected of me. This time there was a mandatory essay for City Kids, a program that works with KIPP and other schools in the District of Columbia. I read the background information and was intimidated by the things it said. Soon enough, I received my acceptance letter to the program that would change me.

I talk about City Kids a lot and the things I have done there. For example, I tell and have told many people that I climbed a 14,000ft mountain called the Grand Teton. But it is more to what City Kids gave me. I gained important qualities such as determination, curiosity, and leadership; qualities that will serve me well in the future. My curiosity grew extensively over the years. I returned to school after City Kids sessions and I started asking "why" about everything we were learning. I soon began researching and answering these questions. I want to know why things happen and how they work; I am always searching for purpose. My curiosity has played a key role in my intelligence and my thinking has broadened. Life is too short to live without meaning. I have begun to explore the possibilities and am never satisfied with simple explanations; there is always another layer of meaning if you are willing to go above and beyond.

With my curiosity growing my determination started to become apparent in everything I did. I did not give up easy with anything I did. I was always determined to do something if it interested me. But, now that I think about it since I want to be a major business owner I will need all the qualities City Kids taught me especially determination, curiosity, and imagination. I will have to constantly think outside the box and be focused to execute the plans I have in mind. Also, being a business owner I will have to be a strong and very influential leader if I want to be successful. With that being said I believe one the main goals of City Kids Program is to make the campers into good and strong leaders. We develop into leaders by taking classes and going through experiences that challenge us as people and as leaders. I appreciate that I have become a leader but I appreciate the fact that I can apply this to almost everything in my life more. There are so many things that you learn on a day to day basis but you never learn or know how it applies to your life. With that being said all I have learned and taken away from City Kids will use it to my advantage in the future.