

I love how City Kids Wilderness Project has changed me as a person

City Kids Wilderness Project has had a profound affect on my life. Both the staff and the experience have greatly influenced my life and prepared me for my future. Having an opportunity to spend time in Wyoming gave me a new outlook on life. Through City Kids, I have been exposed to many activities, learned life saving skills and been supported by the staff like family. Exposure to City Kids Wilderness Camp has been a profound experience. The lessons learned have instilled a sense of community and leadership. Which I will use while pursuing my Bachelors Degree. City Kids has also provided me with a myriad of great role models. My time spent being a part of the City Kids Wilderness Camp has been some of the best moments of my life.

I joined City Kids when in 8th grade through SEED Public Charter School. When I joined the program, I did not know what to expect. I knew I would travel far from home, learn some new things, and of course have some fun. Little did I know that trip would turn into a life-changing event. I rode horses, went white water rafting, camped, hiked, hiked, then hiked some more, made friends, help build homes for strangers, learned how to become a leader and develop self confidence. I grew so much from the exposure to new activities. I traveled for the first time without my family. I had to be responsible for myself and create my reputation independent of my family.

City Kids teaches us every time you camp at a new camp ground it should feel brand new. We were taught to never leave a trace, dig a hole for the bathroom, and clean up after yourself and the effects of us not doing those things. I know how these may seem to the average person. Nevertheless, these are integral steps to protecting our environment and teaching responsibility and accountability.

I am fortunately connected to City Kids during the school year. This year we visited colleges, went skiing, camped and participated in team building activities. I also earned community service hours by doing office work (I had a great time and learned a lot). I also learned First Aid skills which further ignited my passion to pursue a career in the Fire

Department and the EMS. Throughout my time with City Kids, I have learned CPR and some Wilderness First Aid. These were big life lessons because not only was I able to save a camper's life but I can now save one of my family member's lives. That was the basis of me wanting to focus my life on first response.

Having the once in a lifetime opportunity to live in Wyoming for the summer has exposed me to a life I did not know existed. Those experiences have given me a new outlook on life. Through the skills developed under City Kids I know that my actions matter and what I choose to do or choose not to do has repercussions. I am a better human being because of City Kids Wilderness Project. I appreciate them for the grace and support they have always given me.