

Essay Contest The Time of My Life

South Cove has influenced me to become who I am today. Through the BASE program, I was able to discover my interests from all the activities provided for me. At the time, I was a shy girl who did not interact with anyone around me. I had no interest in anything and never tried to discover myself. The program helped my journey of self-discovery and helped me add a shine to my dull self. I had fond memories and great stories to tell from being a child, because of the BASE program. The best job they did for me was add character into myself.

I always remembered the trips to the library. To my tiny self, the library was like a palace; colossal and endless. From there, I was able to grow my imagination and read numerous types of books from adventure to horror to comedy. It also gave me an opportunity to read different subjects to find what I liked. This was the library I found my love for books, where I have not stopped reading since. Prior to BASE, I went to the library specifically to rent out movies in the movie section. It was the only section I would ever visit. Going to the library with the BASE program encouraged me to reading books, which I am glad they did. I found myself loving my first ever novel and even discovered comics. Every day I would borrow the same book: a joke book with over a thousand hilarious jokes. It amazed me how I was able to go through so many different adventures with all the different books. I am most thankful to the program for aiding me in the discovery of books that helped me discover myself.

Another gift I was able to gain through the BASE programs was the ability to interact with others. As a shy child it was very difficult for me to talk to people, even the teachers. The only person I knew was Madeline, my teacher. She was the only person I ever said anything to, but the only words I uttered to her were permissions to the bathroom. The counselors of the program were very friendly and included me in all the games they played. Through the encouragement of the counselors, I was able to become more used to people and was able to interact with others more. Breaking out of my shell allowed me to be able to have more confidence in going to the new school I would go to in the fall.

Science is one of my most favorite classes in school thanks to the passion and curiosity that BASE had created in me. If it was not for this program, I would not have found this part of me. One of the main agendas in the curriculum was to try out different science experiments, such as building aluminum ships to float. The activities were both fun and educational. It was fun interacting with the other kids in the program, because I was too shy to interact with anyone on my own. It was

educational, because we had an in depth discussion after every experiment. Everything was a group activity so that everyone was included which was exciting for my young-self, because I would be able to interact with other children. This developed my teamwork, social skills, as well as building my confidence. My learning style is to do hands on activities and by experimenting with different sciences. This helped my love for science grow into what it is today. When I try the experiments that I had performed at BASE, it excites me know that I had experienced the experiment before and that I knew the science behind it.

Not only was the program of great benefit to myself, but also to my parents. My parents worked long hours and barely came to pick me up on time. If you value time and love of your children, think of the second the parent runs out of their work, even they have much more to do, to rush through traffic and the weather to pick up their children with open arms on time with a smile and a hug. Each time, almost shedding a tear of joy and hoping no one would see. The BASE program was able to provide a place for me to be while my parents worked hard to keep a roof over our head and feed us to be healthy, even if they have to eat our leftovers. If my parents came to pick me up late, the staff would always stay no matter how long it took.

The dedication of Madeline and the staff in making sure every child was safe and happy impressed my parents greatly by showing how caring they were. It showed that it was not a job for them to leave on time because they wanted to go home, but rather it felt like they took each child as if it was their own personally with much patience. I knew that I wanted to grow up and take care of my children in the same way as they had displayed.

Overall, the South Cove BASE program was a life changing program. BASE allowed me to discover different interests which I still love today. My love for books, science and games all came from the program. Along with the interests, I was able to learn to be interactive with others and develop lifelong skills. I broke out of my shell and was ready to enter school an excited little bundle of joy. Most of all, I found what love and patience really means from my parents and the teachers. My journey of self-discovery and discovering others started at BASE and I will pass it on to my children for generations. I am so happy to say I am proud to have experienced one of the most memorable times of my life.