Legacy Community Service Essay

Volunteering is not something new for me. My mother taught me that volunteering is something one should do even without compensation for it; volunteering can be its own reward. I started volunteering when I was five years old in San Antonio at the San Antonio Missions. Later, volunteering at Fort Davis National Historic Site, where my family and I did living history as part of our home school curriculum. Since moving to Midland ten years ago, I have volunteered at many organizations. These include Casa De Amigos, Midland Children’s Rehabilitation Center with their Hippotherapy program, the Commemorative Air Force and the Midland Friends of the Library. My experience shows how it helped the me and organization and how I will continue to do volunteering in the community.

I did my volunteer hours for my Legacy Scholarship at The Commemorative Air Force. I volunteered with AirSho public safety and with the museum’s program called Junior Cadet Academy. The Academy is a two to four day program that lets students from the public and private schools learn about the history of airpower and its role in World War II. It includes three different modules. The modules are History of World War II, Dynamics of Flight and Desert Survival. I helped as a junior instructor in all of those modules. A junior instructor’s job is to help the instructor and make sure the modules go smoothly.

In the History of World War II module, the goal is to teach the students about the second World War, how it affected the world and how airpower affected its outcome. The Dynamics of Flight module teaches the history of aviation and gives the students the opportunity to build a wooden glider to help them understand how a real plane flies. Desert Survival teaches the students basic survival skills, so if something like their car were to break down in the middle of nowhere with no cell phone reception, they would know how to make shelter, collect water and signal for help.

I really enjoyed working with the kids in the academies. It was very fulfilling teaching them about history and I really enjoyed teaching the survival because of how useful it could be for the students later on. It was also very interesting teaching the kids about the history of flight since it is something that most kids do not have a chance to learn about.

Because they are always short handed with people to help with public safety at AirSho, when I was
asked to come help I said, “yes”. I worked directing traffic and parking cars. It was very informative working AirSho. I had never gone to one before so it was interesting seeing the working and logistical side of an event like AirSho and it was nice being able to help make sure it went smoothly.

Since volunteering has been such a big part of my life so far, I plan on continuing as I go through college and as I get older. Right now, I am working on my hours for my second year of Legacy. I am working at the Friends of the Library, picking up books from the County Library and other organizations that have books to donate. In addition, I am still very involved with Fort Davis and other National and State Parks doing living history and other volunteering.

In conclusion, volunteering can be very fulfilling, interesting and fun. I have volunteered for variety of organizations and every one has been fulfilling in its own way, from pulling weeds at the San Antonio Missions to teaching about World War II history at Cadet Academies. Knowing that I have helped others through my volunteering is the best reward there is. Volunteering also helped me learn about what I want to do in college, I found that I have an interest in history so I am majoring in history while in college and then I hope to get a job working at a museum.