Brayden (BB)

Camp Cosby Essay

Leadership Scholarship

Leadership…by definition means “the action of leading a group of people or an organization”. However, over my past 7 years at Cosby I have learned that leadership means much more than this minimal and vague definition. Leadership is having the willingness and patience to leave an everlasting impact on the lives of people around you. Leadership is having the courage to take that one extra step, or to take that one risk that no one else is willing to take. Finally, leadership is having the motivation and determination to never give up and to always keep pushing yourself and the people around you. Camp Cosby has taught me so much more about leadership than an eleven word definition ever could.

Patience is a key piece of being a leader. The Rag Program is a great example of how I have been taught patience at Camp Cosby. I started The Rag Program 6 years ago starting with my leathers. The thrill and power that this first leather gave me is unexplainable. Then after each summer I would wait anxiously until next summer to get my next rag. Now being a rising gold ragger I have learned patience not only through those agonizing waits between each summer, but also by learning to take my time to achieve the goals that I set between each rag. So the Rag Program has taught me so many things about what it means to be a good leader. However, the patience I have acquired through this program will stick with me forever.

A key part of Camp Cosby is our final night at Adventure Village. I remember two years ago it being my first year in ADV I was definitely an odd man out amongst the older kids in ADV. So, throughout the week I began to get more and more comfortable with the kids and environment around me. I began to take steps to stand out amongst the others. An example of a time when I took that one extra step was on the final night at ADV. WE were closing out and they asked someone to pray. We all sat for a minute, but no one was volunteering. So, I dug deep and found the courage within myself to step out and close that final night with a prayer. That is a night I will never forget because the amount of kids who came up to me telling me they wish that they had volunteered was astounding. So, that is just proof that Camp Cosby taught me how to be courageous and to go out of my comfort zone to impact others.

Finally, Camp Cosby has taught me how to push myself in order to help push others to their full potential. An example of a time that Camp Cosby has given me the opportunity to push someone to their fullest extent was last year. I had signed up for the Giant Swing for that Thursday. Throughout that week I had met a blazer, he was brave in all the activities that I had done with him. Whether it was tubing, riding pit bikes, or even horses, this kid would do anything. However, when we came to the giant swing he sat right down at the picnic table and said he was not doing the Giant Swing. Me knowing he could, I walk up to him and we have a super awesome conversation and pep talk about how he can do it and he has nothing to be afraid of. He gets up, puts a helmet on, and not only does the Giant Swing, but goes all the way to the top with no hesitation. Next thing I know he is signed up for Giant Swing two periods the next day

So, all in all Camp Cosby has developed the leader that I am today. It also is helping me become a better leader every second that I am there. The patience I was taught helps me slow life down and take advantage of the great things in life. The Courage that I have acquired helps me work through any mental and physical barriers that I have set for myself. Finally the motivation and determination that I have taken on helps me in every single second of my life. So, yes Camp Cosby has helped me become a leader. However, I have so much more room to grow, and that's why the Leadership Scholarship is perfect for me.