

Education in the Community

Daily “Best Moments”

Throughout their service, students were tasked with submitting their “best moments” from that day along with their service hours. Below is a collection of these moments that represent the importance of service to both Education in the Community students and to their tutees.

“Because of the holiday, one of the kids asked, ‘where have you been?’ almost in an ‘I missed you’ type of way.”

“I was assigned to a kid who I was told did not want to interact with any of the volunteers, so I was there last shot. Thankfully, we ended up bonding really well and we stayed together until her mom had to pick her up!”

“I was in the athletics department and saw just one boy wanting to play soccer. My highlight was passing down things I wished I trained when I was younger. Like identifying my weak points in soccer and then training them in those weak points. I was glad I was able to pass down that type of training to him and seeing his openness in training his weak points and his resilience in the effort to do so.”

“One of the things that I liked the most is that I have been able to build a relationship with the kids as I see them regularly. I am teaching one of the kids to play chess and they are teaching me to play Roblox with them. They see me as one of them and invited me to play, color, and paint and it was a great opportunity to me to learn how to be a kid and don't take everything so serious in life. I also love how confident they are and how they accept every compliment with no shame.” — *Isabela Peña*

“I am working with one kid every time I do service. At first he was a bit tough, he would not really like to study. I realized that I had the same problem as kid due to gaming. Ethan loves games, and we bond over the same video games. When I first started working with him I did not really know how to get him to work with me and get his fully attention. After a while I realized using incentive based learning would really work. Every time we finish a problem or a page, we would talk about his last match he had on one of his games. It really worked wonders with him and we are much more productive now. “

“I worked with a girl who has a really hard time focusing in on her work, but when she starts reading she gets so excited and focused. She also told me she feels very smart when she reads.”

“One highlight is that she seemed more comfortable during this session and wanted to keep working even when our hour was up!”

“They had to write thank you notes, and it was nice seeing them saying that they are grateful for their parents.”

“We talked about Halloween costumes and discussed our favorite superheros!”

“We spent a lot of time talking about different activities she enjoys in her town. I was able to learn more about different events her school holds and ways that families volunteer. We connected over loving anime and she even asked me some questions about dorming in college.” — *Maya De Los Santos*

Overall “Best Moments”

As a question to reflect on their service, students were asked what their overall best moment was throughout their entire service.

“My tutoring partner told me that his math test scores had improved significantly, which made me feel the joy of being a teacher.”

“The best moment that occurred throughout my service so far was when my tutee did a really difficult math problem on his own. He was really proud of himself and I think more confident than I had ever seen him.”

“This past session was my favorite because I feel like we really got to connect by talking about things other than the work I was helping her with. By sharing my interests with her we were able to find commonalities and I think it has helped her see me as more personable.” — **Maya De Los Santos**

“When I was put in charge of evacuating the kids during the fire drill. It was a lot of pressure and responsibility but the feeling was so rewarding after.”

“I can't choose one because I have so many moments like when I started playing Bad Bunny for some Latin kids, and we had a dance party, or when I could explain a kid why the color black was just as beautiful as any other color or when one kid made me a paper flower. Every day happens something that I really enjoy.”
— **Isabela Peña**

The Community

As a question to reflect on their service, students were asked, “What is the best thing that you have discovered about the community (or a person within it) while completing your service?”

“The kids here have extremely strong, colorful personalities. They are very daring and valiant, and are not afraid of speaking their mind.”

“The community is so eager to help the tutors out and are extremely appreciative. On my first day, the mom of one of the kids offered all of the tutors rides home even though we all live in different places. Many of the students ask if we want their parents to give us a ride. They also often act indifferent towards us while we are tutoring but every time I leave, the kids I helped say thank you a ton of time and talk about fun parts of tutoring.”

“The best thing I have discovered about the community is strong family involvement. I loved learning about how the students’ families will help fun after school activities or events.” — **Maya De Los Santos**

“I'm just surprised to heard little kids understanding and accepting diversity. I think that is a consequence of being surrounded with kids from very diferent backgrounds, lifes, cultures and races.”

Impact on the Student

As a question to reflect on their service, students were asked, “How has completing service impacted you (as a student, person, community member, etc)?”

“Service has allowed me to realize that I love teaching and want to be an educator in the future. It also has made me realize the time and effort that goes into keeping students engaged with content”

“As a student, service learning allows me to better integrate the educational knowledge I learn in the classroom with the real world. Likewise, service has given me an opportunity to be a teacher, which is very enjoyable and unforgettable.”

“Completing service has made me realize how safe and comfortable the environment at Evkids is. They are not pushing the tutors to do something specific but giving them the space to create lessons and work individually with the kids which is really awesome and I have learned to feel comfortable in the environment and with the kid I tutor.”

“It has been a lot of fun. It has given me the opportunity to give back to the community. It also allowed for me to feel apart of my students community. It is always a good feeling when your student comes back to you and tells you that they have done well on a test.”

“I think I've been exposed to the way the kids interact with each other a lot which has made me want to become a more outgoing person in unfamiliar situations. They've really been able to create a little family with in the center because every kid wants to meet each other and it has made me put more effort into meeting the other people around me.”

“Completing service has reminded me just how important relationship-building and a strong sense of community is for a quality education. Growing up, I moved around quite a bit and never really developed any mentor-student relationships with teachers or felt like I was part of a bigger community. It is very nice to hear my tutee talk about all her friends, hobbies, extracurriculars, and teachers. Also, it is nice to see her have confidence in herself and her abilities, even when she makes a mistake on an assignment. I think that the strong community around her has helped her feel excited about and comfortable with learning and growth, which is really great to see.” — **Maya De Los Santos**