

Environmental Protection

This past week, I was responsible for more than myself. I was responsible for 25 living things – 25 children at a summer camp under my care, as a TA. As I was thrown into a whirlwind of activity, there were some things I quickly learned. One, you soon gain a sense of duty. Being the oldest instills in you a sense of urgency. You do things because you have to, for the safety of the children, and not necessarily just when you want to. Two, you are an indispensable part of your team. No matter what, your team should need you, because you are able to do something for them that couldn't be accomplished without you. Three, you have to be proactive; seek opportunities to help, see things others don't, and then do the things others are not willing to do.

These are just a few of the philosophies I gained from this one short week. I was transformed from a lazy, selfish teenager into a leader that had to put others first. In a way, all of us are in need of this type of transformation. I was surprised at how much I was able to change when I was responsible for 25 little living things. But what about one gigantic living thing?

The Earth is our responsibility. It needs nurture and care just like a child. Just as all remnants of laziness and complacency were wiped away when I was faced with taking care of children, I hope that I can feel the same towards the Earth we all live upon. Just as I am constantly playing a part as a TA, entertaining the kids, keeping them in line, I must also be invaluable to the Earth. Just as I look towards every aspect of the kids' safety and well being, I have the duty to look for ways to help the Earth, actively, whether that means picking up a spare piece of trash that isn't mine, or deciding to walk instead of drive, I have to actively look for opportunities, rather than standing idly by. Our home is often referred to as "Mother Earth," and has nurtured us since we were young. But I believe the Earth is also like a child, and it is our turn to nurture it.