

Bear Mountain

By Shanee Brown

Before we went on our trip to Bear Mountain I was nervous because I had never been on a hike before better yet a mountain. But looking back, I realize that it was a great experience. On the hike I saw many trees, plants, animals that I have never seen before. In a way we worked together and overcame a great obstacle.

I am from the inner city which means all you see when you look outside are basically cars, buildings, and buses. If I'm lucky I might see a frog but that's about it. So actually going on a mountain where animals live was eye opening experience. I saw some creatures that I never saw up close before like chipmunks and colossal size trees. I basically learned about all of the different rocks, trees, and animals around me from our boss Mr. Lanier (Groundwork Bridgeport program manager) who acted as our nature tour guide.

We helped each other out a lot in the trip by sharing snacks and stopping for others. The guys really experienced a sense of brotherhood because they were ahead as they went up and down the mountain and led the way for others. And the girls (me and my sister) helped each other too by waiting for one another and encouraging each other on the hike. Sure enough, even though we arrived late and were the last ones there, we made it up and down the mountain first. This just proved how strong and diligent we really were.

Before I knew it I saw the tower at the top of the mountain and we were at the summit. I looked at the forest cascading down before me. I could not believe that I just went up this gigantic looking mountain. It felt like I was on top of the world and the view was just as nice. The hazy New York skyline set up a dreamlike scene that made you feel like you were looking into a cloud.

We learned a lot about ourselves. And I think the hike up the mountain proved to be a metaphor for that. I realized that overcoming this mountain was not just a Kodak moment but symbolic of all that we have done and all that lay before us. I was satisfied and in a small way amazed bearing witness to the feats that we have attained. It displayed that there is no feat that we cannot overcome especially when we are working together and it showed that we also have the will to be the best in a situation that we are put in even if it is new to us. But more importantly we had a lot of fun.