



Leader-In-Training Interview, Summer Camp 2016

Leader-in-Training: Torin Burns

Interviewer: Alison Mooradian, KIDS for the BAY Development Manager

Session: Bay Explorers

Alison: Did you attend KIDS for the BAY Summer Camp when you were younger? If yes, for how many years?

Torin: I came for three or four years, when I was six - nine years old. When I was a camper, I loved the counselors. I also loved doing Belly Biology on the docks, dissecting squid, catching crabs at the beach, and pulling out invasive ivy at Strawberry Creek.

Alison: What inspired you to apply to be a Leader-in-Training (LIT)?

Torin: Last summer I was looking for a LIT-type program, but none of the other ones I looked at looked good. I remembered how much I loved KIDS for the BAY Summer Camp, so I asked if I could be a LIT even though the program didn't exist yet. I was inspired to become a LIT because I really love helping and teaching the younger campers.

Alison: What was your favorite part about being a Leader-in-Training?

Torin: I love hanging out with the campers - they are some of the sweetest and most interested kids I have ever met. They know so much about the bay!

This is an awesome camp! It's a very unique experience and we get to do activities that a lot of other camps don't do. The counselors are also really great people and they take good care of the campers.

Cindee (Torin's Mom): I feel like this camp is deeper science, not just lightweight science.

I love that the counselors are great role models for Torin. They are all really great with kids and great science teachers.

Alison: What did you learn from the experience of being a Leader-in-Training?

Torin: I've learned that it is much more effective to challenge or encourage campers instead of forcing them to do an activity. For instance, I'll be their buddy to make them feel special or I'll say, "I'll race you to the back of the line," if they're walking too slowly.

I've also learned that it is much better to teach kids through hands-on activities. For example, if we tried to teach them about the geography of the San Francisco Bay just through talking, they wouldn't understand. But by teaching them through having them make a 3D model of the bay, they understand and they love learning about it.