

My name is Selina Ali and I have been volunteering with the city of Rancho Cucamonga for a little over 3 years. I was 10 when I started to volunteer with night on the town babysitting with the T.R.A.C. (teen recreational activity club) program. I don't know exactly why I started back in 6th grade I guess it was something new and it was good training for any job in the future. I am always up for new things. I know my hours aren't very impressive but I try to work whenever I have time around school life, whether it's a food program to help the less fortunate families or babysitting kids in the city night on the town program or any major event with the city such as parades or the annual grape harvest festival. I try to work it all as I said I'm always up for new things. I also do a wide variety of things during the summer like monthly dances, movies and concerts in the park 4 days a week or when im not doing those I might be seen operating the snack bar at the local pool. I do all this during the summer when I could be socializing with my friends but volunteering has become a very important thing in my life.

I am very well aware it isn't the "coolest" thing for a young teen to be doing but what people don't understand it's a fun, learning experience. I also believed I have helped all kinds of people whether young or old or in between I've done it all. I have also helped people understand how fun it is to volunteer by persuading people into trying it out. Some like it and some don't it's their own opinion though. I guess volunteering is kind of like a sport at least to me. I'm just as dedicated to it as I am to my other sports and activities that I do and it's just as hard but in the end it's worth it. I love making a difference in my community. I don't do it for the awards I may get or because I have to I do it for fun and I find it much more productive than sitting around the house all day doing nothing and wasting my life being a couch potato.

By doing what I love I am having a learning experience about what a job is like and how to do one and how to work under a boss or even be the boss yourself. Though it may be a long while until I get my first job for I am only 13 years old but I think that when I my first job I will be ready and will progress up the working ladder very quickly because I have 3 years of experience, I know that I can do a large variety of things. I have been exposed to different things and I get a chance to work on dealing with a customers, handling money, working fast and efficiently and a lot of other things you might expect in a job. In a distant future I still see myself volunteering a lot; more or less I can't tell but I know I will be and maybe I could even become a grand volunteer making over 1000 hours a year (for I only have about 200 this year alone) but I guess only time will tell.

Selina Ali
Age: 13