

I pride myself on being a positive individual. When there is something that goes wrong, no matter how hard it is, I always keep it together and continue to have a smile on my face. One of my favorite educational experiences was with my YTY (Youth Tutoring Youth) Class last year. I had a student in my second grade classroom who had been so developmentally behind that she couldn't tell the difference between letters and numbers. I worked with her attentively and realized that she just didn't understand the way she had been taught. This student loved to color, and I loved her interest in creativity, when we did activities I would have her do little coloring projects to go along and she ended up not only being able to tell the difference between letters and numbers, but she was able to read full words and sentences. The last day I was with my class she came up to me with a book she had written with me, fully colored and hand written, she read the full book out loud to me and I had been so happy I think I cried. I try to visit my class and when I did this year, I asked her teacher how she was doing and she is one of the top students in the class. All she needed was someone to help her learn in a different way. I volunteer and work with Camp Y-Koda and it has been one of the best experiences I could possibly have. I work in many different aspects, in the ropes course, assisting counselors, hosting camp store, leading camp activities and more. I also teach swim lessons at the YMCA throughout the week, I encounter countless types of children and I personally would believe that I am pretty good at what I do, I strive to explain things and make sure all of my students understand what I try to tell them. I had one little girl who did not want to go in the water no matter what I did, she had told me her favorite animal was a reindeer, and coincidentally the last session before class I got her to get in the water, do some swimming skills and hop in the water like a reindeer. I am also trained in many teaching techniques and styles and I personally believe that these classes have helped me to understand people even better. I think all of these skills will benefit me as a thoughtful team leader and ambassador because I believe I have lots of experience and I can accommodate well to fit everyone's views. My initial thoughts as to how I will contribute to the team would be bringing new ideas, being involved to the best of my ability, and I think I have the connections to make Educators Rising great on the national level. There is a need for collaboration in a large way, and I believe I can be part of that journey.