



## Personal Statement

I joined the Girl Scouts of America in 1993 when I was in the third grade. Since that time Girl Scouts has been an important part of my life. During the summer of 1996, before I started the sixth grade, I went to a Girl Scout summer camp in San Diego for seven days. Even though this was my first time ~~being~~ away from home for more than an overnight stay, I really enjoyed myself. At that time I knew I wanted to be a counselor some day.

During the summers of 1997 and 1998 my wish came true. I served as a counselor for Camp Stuff N' Such a Girl Scout day camp in Marina Del Rey. I first attended the camp as a camper when I was in the sixth grade. I loved it so much that I knew I wanted to be a Stuff N' Such counselor one day. I didn't get the chance the next year because I attended two away camps that summer. I returned to the San Diego camp from the year before and I also went to the US Space Camp in Titusville, Florida.

In the summer of 1997, I became a counselor-in-training (CIT) for Such N' Stuff. I was ~~so~~ happy to be a CIT. Before I could become a CIT I had to complete four hours of training. The training was done at the home of one of the camp coordinators who is a Girl Scout adult volunteer. In the training I learned different songs, games and activities to do with the campers. At the training I needed to have a camp name, which is a name that the campers would call me instead of my real name. My camp name was Pixie as in the candy Pixi Stixs. The CIT's were composed of girls from different backgrounds. I was the only

black girl there but I didn't mind because most of the people were so friendly to me at the training and the camp.

At Such N' Stuff I was the CIT for first and second graders the first year and the second year I had fourth graders. During camp I taught them a lot of different arts and crafts. I helped teach the girls songs and dances for the camp finale show. I found that during my time as a counselor, I not only had fun playing with the girls, but I also learned to develop other skills, such as communicating. I had to communicate with girls from all kinds of backgrounds even a group that was deaf. Because I was working with small girls with a lot of energy I also at times had to serve as a mediator during their arguments

I spent a total of 80 hours of service at camp over those two summers. In addition to the time spent at the day camp, I also have spent 19 days at two away camps being a CIT. I love working with children ~~but at this time I am not planning on a career that involves children.~~ I do know that I will continue with the Girl Scouts as an adult volunteer and inspire girls just as my counselors inspired me.