



The Triple Bottom Line: Recycling vs. Buying Green



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Sustainability

At my practicum site there was one issue concerning sustainability that really puzzled me. The site had no recycling system, but the company always bought green products, particularly green cleaning supplies. It really made me wonder, why would a company, which clearly is aware of green consciousness because of their consumption, neglect something so common place such as a recycling system?

After much thought, I was able to simplify the question using the concept of the Triple Bottom Line. The triple bottom line is a framework of the three different dimensions a successful company can have. The three dimensions are economics (profit), social and environmental issues. An analysis of these three "bottom lines" for both recycling projects and green consumerism will give an answer to why this one particular company buys green but does not recycle.

Impacts

On the Children

- Strengthen social and interpersonal skills
- Create an enjoyable and safe environment
- Taught the children fundamental athletic skills as well as basic education skills

On the Company

- Set a positive example for co-workers
- Performed the majority of the more physically daunting tasks
- Helped create a cohesive work environment throughout the camp

On Myself

- Strengthened interpersonal skills
- Ruled out working with children as a career goal
- Solidified a career plan as a physical therapist



Vs.



Photo Credit:3M

Daily Activities

Arrival: Every morning at camp I would come in and start setting up. I was always in charge of doing the more physically daunting tasks like taking out trash and moving the ice bins. When I finished my tasks I was responsible for seeing if any of my co-counselors needed help.

During the Day: When the children showed up, every day of the week had a particular theme. For example, every Monday we would participate in soccer drills and then teach new skills to the campers. Tuesdays were basketball days, Wednesdays were normally big swim days, and Thursdays were science days and on Fridays an interesting educational show always came to the camp. During each of these activities I was primarily responsible for entertaining and supervising the children.

Dismissal: we would clean up and make sure that each child got home safely with his or her parent or guardian.



My co-counselors and I on our last day!
Photo Credit: Annie Giovanniello

Future Works

I looked into the profession of physical therapy initially because of a recommendation by a parent on the site of my practicum experience. I came to love this profession and am seriously grateful for this exposure. This experience has made me aware that I will be avoiding a career where I would work with young children all day. I need social interaction in my future profession, but that interaction needs to be with an older more mature audience.

Service Site

The service site that I worked at was the Lake Success Summer Day Camp. I was a camp counselor at this camp. The two most important staples of our camp are the promotion of safety and of course tons of fun.

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