

Coach for College

A Global Initiative to Promote Higher Education Through Sports

Student-Athlete Post-Camp Survey - Summer 2021

Average rating by participants from 1 (no impact) to 10 (very beneficial):

- **How would you rate your experience overall?** **9.5**
- **Experiencing and getting to know another country/culture** **9.6**
- **Strengthened my interest in service activities in the future** **9.6**
- **Strengthened my interest in learning about other countries and connecting with people from other backgrounds.** **9.4**
- **Learning how to work effectively with people from different backgrounds.** **9.7**

What were some of your favorite aspects of the experience (specific instances or components, as well as what you feel you learned and gained from the service and teamwork)?

- My favorite aspects included working with my Vietnamese coach (Trang!) and becoming great friends. Secondly, my favorite part was the exchange activities such as cooking! I learned a lot about Vietnamese culture and gained an appreciate for how important service is and the impacts it can have as the kids began to learn a lot about English but also they told me they learned lots about different life lessons. Individually, I learned I really enjoy to give back and help out anyway I can, so I'm excited to try to do more service in the future.
- I greatly enjoyed the balance between working for a common good and sharing intimate life experiences. I found that it was extremely easy to be excited about logging onto the computer each day since I knew that we would both have fun and contribute to a greater cause. The relationships with the Vietnamese coaches were by far my overall favorite part of the experience though, as I found it heartwarming to be able to make friends on the other side of the world.
- Meeting the kids! I really appreciated that time with them since it was all virtual this year.
- I really enjoyed the cultural exchange activities and getting to be close with the Vietnamese coaches.
- Although the experience was virtual, I felt I was still able to receive a full experience. The cultural exchange activities where holidays and traditions were shared was so interesting, along with the culture Kahoot at the end. I liked how we spend the majority of our time with the same team so we were able to get deeper bonds and feel much more open. I realized how much I opened up at the end of the three weeks, and we weren't even in person! It's amazing how good connections can be after 3 weeks if you simply open yourself up to it. I learned how to work through a language barrier, being patient and understanding of my Vietnamese coaches. Their English is truly amazing for a second language. I learned to take a step back and be trusting. I had to take my Vietnamese coach's advice about how to work with kids, establishing trust between us.

- Being able to work in small groups really allowed me to create a very tight bond with people that live across the country and across the world
- The cultural exchange activities!
- I really enjoyed our cultural exchange activities because I was able to learn a lot more about other cultures and traditions. Even though I have had some exposure to Vietnamese culture through friends at home, talking more in depth about it with the Vietnamese coaches, staff, and kids was a great experience.
- I loved every cultural exchange activity. When I actively participated in them, I found that I got way more out of the experience. Also, preparing during the day and reading the lesson plans before made me feel way more ready to contribute to the lesson planning and make better videos.
- Cultural exchange of food. Getting to interact with the kids.
- I really loved our cultural exchange activities- specifically the ones where we discussed about holidays, our favorite food, childhood memories! I also loved getting to work with my life skills/color team and I just learned so much from my Vietnamese coach seven because he was so passionate and enthusiastic in everything he did.
- Breakout rooms in our teams, meeting with the kids, and cultural exchange activities
- Cultural exchange activities (cooking); sharing about holidays, childhoods, food, hometowns; making friends; talking to other coaches outside of meeting times.

Have you had any thoughts, suggestions or ideas to improve any aspect for later camps this summer?

- It is admittedly difficult to provide suggestions because I was so genuinely shocked by the overall success of the program. My largest concerns-- relationships between the coaches, our ability to successfully run camp, and our capacity to learn about a foreign culture online-- were all addressed in a better manner than I could've expected. The only suggestion I might be able to propose is to allow for more time in color teams as we near the end of camp. I found that it was during this time that I learned and shared the most since we became so close with them and the group was so small.
- I think this program was the best thing I could have ever done this summer and I do not think there needs to be any drastic changes.
- Change up some of the groups during cultural exchange activities more often. It allows you to meet a lot more people in the camp.
- Maybe allow for cultural exchange activities to be with other people so we have a chance to meet everyone.
- Not too many! It was a great experience I would say maybe increase cultural exchange activities.
- I mean the only thing that could have made it better was meeting with the kids more often but with restrictions and time zone concerns I thought they did amazing!
- None at the moment, it was great and everything was very organized.
- I loved everything about this virtual experience. Extremely rewarding. However, I only got to know about half of the coaches in my program, maybe a bit less. I wish I would've been able to work more or get to know the other coaches more.

Is there any advice you would give student-athletes diving in later this summer?

- This is so much fun! One of the best experiences that I've had! Enjoy it and soak up every minute of it because it goes by fast!
- Buy into the experience! Don't be afraid to speak up and share but most importantly, don't be afraid to listen. The Vietnamese coaches offer such a unique perspective and have so many different life experiences. It might be a little awkward the first few days but patience and enthusiasm go a long way. Lastly, try your best to match the positivity and energy of our Vietnamese counterparts. Their energy is infectious and it was the best part of my day to share in their excitement.
- Open yourself up to the experience! You get so much more out than you believe, and it's amazing how close we got virtually after such a short time! It's great to get to know other cultures!
- Really make sure to engage in the conversations for the cultural activities and your videos you make because it will make the experience so much better. Because everything is virtual, being able to stay engaged and contribute to the conversation and just be yourself will help create a bond with your coaches! The kids always enjoy the videos you make, so be yourself and authentic!
- Use imovie to make the videos!! For academic lessons I screen shotted the activity placed it in the video and included photos/drawings when I could to make them slightly more interactive and fun to watch. The more creative and interactive for the kids the better especially virtually. Also practice talking very slowly and using simpler words as it's easier for the kids to understand.
- Enjoy it because before you know it, it is over.
- What you put in you get out! Soak it all up and be attentive in every meeting. Time really flies by!
- Immerse yourself. Do not be afraid to share, engage, and be yourself. It is such a fun time and you get what you put in to it.
- Make sure to keep up with deadlines but also have fun!
- Really enjoy every moment and write down a recap or just your favorite thing after each meeting! Also be open and really just be yourself because all the coaches are the best and as long as you're excited and yourself you'll have an amazing experience!
- Like everyone said at the beginning, pour your heart and soul into it because 3 weeks goes by fast and looking back everything is more than worth it.