Princeton-Blairstown Center

Sera Gorucu’s Experience
Collaborative Summer Staff

The summer staff had to spend a lot of time together. It was an all-hands-on-deck sort of situation. We got to know each other pretty well and I think some meaningful friendships were formed.

PBC’s staff in general is a bit of a family. The adjuncts (people who come in to facilitate groups when PBC is in need of more hands (they are often former full-time staffers)) all seem to know each other, love getting to catch up with each other, and they try to socialize with the new staff as well.
Wonderful Bosses

My supervisor, Ron (in the middle) is a kind, enthusiastic person who is always looking to learn and connect with people. He offers helpful insights and is always checking in with people's well-being. He does his job really well and I am thankful to have been under his wing this summer.

I was also indirectly supervised by a person named Mary. She is very dedicated to her work and very passionate. She is similarly kind, understanding, and caring. The same can be said of another indirect supervisor named Joey. Everyone at PBC is very caring and involved.

To the right is my fellow literacy instructor. She was a pleasure to work with. I bonded with her a lot while also learning from her.
It’s always good to be surrounded by nature and to be able to appreciate it on a daily basis.
Cabinmates

I spent my summer living with these lovely ladies. We formed very positive relationships with each other.

At the end of our days, we reflected with each other on our experiences and/or vented about certain stressors. We brainstormed ideas on how to improve our experiences.

On the weekends, we did our weekly cabin cleaning and coexisted really well.

We got a chance to spend some time off campsite together toward the end.

I’m thankful for the time I got to spend with them!
I spent a lot of my summer with my students! I had to craft lesson plans tailored to them each week, and get to know them and their names quite quickly. I got good at crafting lesson plans and managing classrooms.

I formed some fairly positive relationships, and will possibly keep in touch through e-mail with a couple of them.

Occasionally, I’d get a nice token from some of them. One example is the picture the left here, where a student drew the superhero version of me. Another student just drew a picture for me to keep. Also, every Friday, I’d have the kids do an appreciation circle, where they wrote positive things about each other on big yellow papers. A couple of time my students surprised me with a yellow appreciation paper of my own.