



Nichole, 17

I met Nichole while she was helping at a work day at a farm where people with special needs can live. The work day happens each year to honor the memory of a special man in her town who died in a car accident.

What have you been doing this week?

This has been a busy week. I have lots to tell. Monday I went to school and then I went to work Monday night. And Tuesday I went to school but only for half a day because I went on a field trip* with my photography class to a local college to take pictures. And then on Wednesday I went to a baseball game for the whole class day because all of the students who made honor roll* got to go on a baseball trip. And then Thursday I went to school and I went to work Thursday night. And then on Friday I went to school, and then Friday night I went to the big birthday dinner of one of my really close friends. And today I'm here at this service project.

What do you do when you go to work?

I'm the front desk secretary at a counseling center.

Are you graduating from high school?

I'm going to graduate this year.

What will you do after that?

I'm planning on going to Appalachian State.* I'm going to be a double major* in photography and Spanish with a minor* in social work.

Why do you want to study these subjects?

Well, I guess these are the things I'm extremely fond of. I love photography, and helping the Hispanic community* is what I'm really passionate about.

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Whoa, I don't know. I guess, always think the best of people. People are trying to be the best they can be. There is hate in the world, but there is also a lot of love.

A Few Words

Field trip: When teachers take students to someplace away from their school to learn things, it is called a field trip.

Honor roll: The names of all the students who get good grades in all of their classes are written on a special list called the honor roll.

Appalachian State: In the U.S., there are universities that are run by the governments of each of the fifty states as well as universities that are run privately. Appalachian State is run by the state of North Carolina.

Double major: The main subject that a student chooses is called a major (perhaps mathematics or engineering or economics). If a student studies two main subjects, it is called a double major, and the student takes extra classes.

Minor: Students usually have a second specialty, which is called a minor. For example, an economics student might take a minor in mathematics.

Hispanic community: In the U.S., there are many people who come from Mexico or South America and speak Spanish. Because many of them are new immigrants, they often have special needs.

Discussion Questions

1. Has someone special in your life died? How do you remember or honor this person?
2. Nichole says that we should think positive things about other people in the world. Do you agree? Why or why not?