

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SPORT AND RECREATION

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By Zach Keene

My name is Zach Keene and I am a senior in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Temple University. The Major that I am studying is Sport and Recreation management. I was born and lived my whole life in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I live there with my parents and two brothers.

I chose Sport and Recreation Management as my major for a number of reasons. I got my first job, working as a janitor at a parks and recreation department, when I was 16. There I got to see what went on every day. For the next seven summers after that I worked for the park maintenance department in my home town. At this position, I got to see the importance of a park system.

Some other reasons that I turned to this career path was my love for sports and also physical activities. I also enjoy too help people a lot. Recreation and Leisure provide people with so many different benefits. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, helps develop social interaction and brings communities together. That is why I am so passionate about this industry.

Bringing communities together is something that is important to me. That is why I developed an Adopt-A-Park program for my home town. It is a chance for community groups of individuals to volunteer

at one of our towns many parks and do anything from cleaning up trash, planting flowers, or painting different buildings. It instills a sense of appreciation for the parks in the volunteer.

During my years at Temple University and my different jobs, I have developed a number of different skills that will help me in my future career. I learned to work with a team at my park maintenance position. Many of the jobs we did there required us to work together to complete it. I learned communication and customer service skills from working the front desk at a health club. I dealt with lots of members every day. I developed problem solving and event planning skills from my Internship with the Manheim Township Recreation Department. There I worked to solve issues that the skate park was having and I also created an event. All of these skills have helped me to prepare for a career in the Sport and Recreation industry.

