

My story begins about two years ago when I was in sixth grade. I met some girls who were volunteering at a homeschool library program. They were my same age. My Children's Librarian, Miss Mel, later told me about volunteering. I was very intrigued!

You see, I have always gone to the library. It was there that I checked out my first young adult book, *The Hunger Games*. My homeschooling group used to go to library classes there. But it wasn't until I was of age to volunteer that my love for libraries sparked and later on burned bigger and brighter!

I remember the day I signed up to volunteer. I was nervous but even more excited! The day finally came to volunteer, and I had a blast. I kept going and going and enjoyed it all. I even started helping with the Summer Reading Program and lock-ins!

I continue to volunteer to this day. I still enjoy it a lot, and in the summer I volunteer very often! It is very exciting, extremely rewarding, and the time flies by when I'm there. I would like to volunteer at the library for as long as possible.

The library has had a huge impact on my life and continues to do so! I hope to one day get a master's degree in Library Science and begin my career as a media specialist in a public library. My local library, the Alexander County Library, will always hold a place in my heart. I have met many friends through youth programs, volunteering, and had lots of fun in the process. The wonderful staff has welcomed me and is willing to assist me in any way.

My friends and I have learned a lot through homeschool library classes. I even remember reading poetry in front of the class with Miss Mel when I was small. Through the library, my classmates and I have studied various subjects in history, learned to utilize NC LIVE, and acquired knowledge in a variety of technologies. The possibilities for learning are endless. There seems to be a book for every subject!

I believe libraries are crucial for the future. With technology getting more and more advanced, there seems to be no need for libraries. But libraries are becoming more than just books. Libraries are very important for the future as they provide many free services and resources including genealogy services for generations to come, art programs, summer programs for all ages, tablets and computers for in-library use, digital and mobile libraries, preparation for teens' futures, and of course books of all subjects and reading levels. Libraries also provide a free, positive environment for studying and assist prospective workers to prepare themselves for future careers.

I feel that I have benefitted greatly from the library. It has always been exciting, even at a young age, to get new books from the library. Little did I know how much fun I would have one day, going to programs and parties. I can't wait to see what my future in the library holds and what exciting thing will happen next!

