Nainita Madurai

1. My sister worked at Cradle Beach and said that it really changed her perspective on life and I believe that it will do the same for me. I would like to become an anthropologist after college and anthropological fieldwork would require me to interact with people from a completely different background than my own. This is a great way for me to apply my teachings of tolerance and acceptance outside of school, and I would get to work with children; I get along with children very well. I also plan on taking a course in child anthropology and I think this would be a great experience for me to learn from and interact with children.
2. I hope to gain a different perspective of life and the world from Cradle Beach. My sister gained an increased appreciation for things in her own life and it also helped improve her self-image. I want to be able to gain those same things. Also, I love to learn new crafts. I would also really like to experience camp life and a life away from the luxuries we take for granted.
3. I hope to give Cradle Beach an idea of how I view the world through unbiased and undiscriminating eyes. I am a very creative person and I think I would have a lot of fun interacting and playing with kids. A great ability I have is my ability to form strong and lasting relationships with those around me; this is my favorite self attribute and I would really like to bring it to Cradle Beach. I want to share all that I can give my diverse background and learn about everyone else’s.
4. If a camper in my cabin was making fun of a child with a disability I would talk to the child and explain to them why they should not be saying those things. I would not want to single the child out in front of everyone, but rather talk to him or her before he or she goes to bed. I think I would ask them first why they said the things they did and then I would explain that the other child may have a disability but that does not mean they are any less of a person than anybody else. In fact there are many things we can learn from people with disabilities because they persevere through so many challenges. Mocking or making fun of them (or anyone else for that matter) only lowers yourself because you are showing to everyone else that you are not able to accept everyone as your friend. It also can hurt more people than just the person who is being made fun of. Accepting those who are different from us is a part of being a good individual and ultimately will make you feel better about yourself. Also, people are less willing to accept those who do not accept others.
5. I think that talking to the camper is probably the best thing to do at first. I would ask them how they would feel if another camper started threatening him or her. If the problem continues I think the child should know that there are consequences to acting disrespectfully. My aunt had a point system with her son. Every time he did something good he would get a point and every time he did something bad he would lose a point. When he had a certain amount of points his mom would give him a piece of candy or something special. I always thought this system worked. If this did not work then I think having them sit out on an activity would make them learn the lesson. The child is eleven-years old and I think he or she would understand that what they are doing is wrong and if they do not then I would explain to them why it is wrong before punishing them.