

The SaLT Program at IdRaHaJe changed my life. I served as a SaLT for two weeks in the summer of 2021 and for ten weeks in the summer of 2022. In my two summers of service at IdRaHaJe, each time I left, people commented on how much I have grown throughout the summer. I would even argue I left as a completely different person than I went in. My first summer I went in with a set plan for my life and left having a new calling in my life. And my second summer, I grew so much as a person. I learned so much about how to love someone in the way that Jesus would. Not only in working as a SaLT did I grow as a person but I also made so many friends.

I think a big part of living for Christ and being a Christian should be having a solid Christian community and before working at IdRaHaJe, I really craved that and struggled to find that community. After my first summer, a few people in my group stayed in touch and to this day, over a year and a half later, I still talk with a lot of them weekly and some daily. The friendships I made working at camp are some that I would not have gotten elsewhere. My second summer working at camp, I left with even more new friendships and these ones, while I didn't think possible before the summer, are even stronger than those of my first summer. I cannot imagine going through life without the community I built as a SaLT. We did so much work together that it was almost impossible to not be super close with everyone.

I won't lie, the work is not easy. There's a level to the work that you just must be prepared for. There was a lot of blood, sweat, and tears these past summers, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. My work ethic grew so much over the summers, and I know this is the same for others too. I remember watching my friends take full 180's in their character and work ethic through the work. We all went into our summers one way and expecting to take one specific thing away and we all left different in some way and took away so many more things we never could have seen coming. Working as a kitchen SaLT my first summer helped me to gain a much deeper understanding of how working behind the scenes for the kingdom was just as important as being a front runner.

My second summer, I got the opportunity to work not only as a kitchen SaLT but also as a counseling SaLT and at first, I did not want to be a counseling SaLT. I thought being behind the scenes was exactly where I was supposed to be. But through working as a counseling SaLT, I learned the importance of having a balance between being a front runner for the kingdom and serving behind the scenes. We need both to grow the kingdom and without the experience I had as a SaLT, I never would have learned how to appreciate serving up front in ministry. Since this summer, I am working to start a small group with middle school girls and to be able to minister to people in a similar way to how I was working at camp.

I don't know what the Lord has in store for me in the future, but I know that in all that the Lord brings me to do to further his kingdom, I will always use what I learned as a SaLT and be able to lean on a few people from my time as a SaLT. I loved my time as a SaLT, and I wouldn't trade my summers for anything. I am so grateful for the chance to serve, learn, and grow and I would recommend the program to anyone that wants to find a Christian community, to grow in their relationship with Christ through weekly or daily discipleship time, grow in their work ethic, or just wanting to volunteer for the summer.