

## StoryCorps Interview at Discovery Science Center

Annette Lee and Rosie Lee

AL: I used to go the Science Center a lot when I was a little kid. I had a membership for about two or three years, so I would go there almost every weekend with my brother, and we would just play around. And then when I reached high school, just driving by the Center one day, I thought, 'Oh hey, it would be a really cool idea to just go back and check things out.' So I went on the website and I saw the section on volunteering, and I was like, 'Oh, this is a good idea.' So a few months later, I turned 15, and one of the first things I did was apply for a position, and had an interview with you.

RL: And you were here, you were here like every weekend, and you would do all-days and sometimes you were here like longer than I was.

AL: One year, I volunteered at the camp at San Joaquin Marsh and there were kids from I think five to seven, so it was really fun to get to know them for the whole week and we got really close and it was just really fun teaching them science and helping them learn and develop a passion for learning. But the most memorable part is a year later, I met one of my students randomly at this community event. And he remembered me and he came and talked to me, and his mom was there too, and they were telling me about how they signed up for all these other camps this summer because they enjoyed the camp last summer, and how he's doing all this science and technology related stuff. And I just thought, 'Oh that's cool. I'm glad I helped make the experience really fun for you, and kind of made an impact on your life, and what you're interested in.'

RL: I think the program has grown so much in the last year. Sometimes it feels like we have 180 or 200 kids. I feel like I'm always like asking people, 'Have you applied to colleges yet? Are you meeting your deadlines? Are you doing your homework? How's school, and how's grades?'

AL: There's kind of a family environment.

RL: Yeah

AL: I think that's one of the reasons why people keep coming back. The center makes you feel welcome. And you're not just helping the center, it feels like the center is helping you in a way, because it helps you grow, helps you make new connections with people, and it just becomes a part of you. And I know it sounds kind of cheesy, but I feel like it does.

RL: Well, yeah. When people ask me how I got started at the Science Center, I always tell them the story how Laura offered me the job, and I was like, 'Nope, I'm going to be a lawyer.' And then she said, 'No, no just part time for the summer,' and I was like,

'Okay.' And here I am five years later, working full time as a volunteer manager. It just kind of sucks you in, and then you like never want to leave.