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Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center

Cassidy Count

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Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center

Cassidy Count, 2020 Cohort

One of the most memorable and impactful experiences I've had this semester with the River Stewards Program was our field trip to the Montgomery County Environmental Learning Center. The sophomore cohort went on this field trip on our own, and it sticks out in my memory for many different reasons. One reason being what we saw and learned at the center. We were going on a tour of the facilities, when we walk through this door and all the sudden we were in a dark hallway with a huge glass window spanning one wall, allowing us to see a huge area just filled with trash. It is hard to describe this image, but imagine an area the size of a football stadium covered in trash piles as tall as a dump truck. There were trucks in there pushing the trash all together that would be pushed in trash trucks that would come to take it to a land fill. The even more shocking part was that this was at the end of the day and most of it had already been taken for the day. I was awestruck and just stared at all of this as our leader was telling us the specifics of how much there was and how much of it could have been reused or recycled. I could tell by the looks on the rest of my cohorts' faces that they were just as impacted by seeing this as I was. We often talk about the importance of sustainability, but seeing it was a whole different thing.

But this trip wasn't just solemn. After we saw this, we walked into this huge room full of little games and activities about trash, recycling, and sustainability, obviously intended for kids to engage them in the subject matter. However, our cohort of 19 to 20 year-old college students spent a good 30 minutes in that room playing with the games and exploring all the different things all the while learning all about this common factor that drew us together as a program. Getting to have this hard-hitting experience, but also getting to have fun with my cohort was a really cool experience and is one of my favorite memories so far.

Learn more about the Environmental Learning Center [here](#).