

Jordan Shumate

Four Way Test

The Four Way Test is something that I have tried to live by, but I did not realize there was a name for it until reviewing this scholarship. The Truth is very important not only telling the truth but hearing it as well. In the classroom, on an athletic team or at work hearing the Truth is very important. It helps me know what I am doing well and areas that I can improve.

Being fair to all concerned is extremely important to me, especially concerning those less fortunate than myself. I had the honor of volunteering at the Special Olympics at Webster Groves High School this past year. I don't think it is fair that some people are born with mental or physical disabilities while I consider myself very healthy. I was able to take this experience and build good will and better friendships. For example, I met athletes from all over St. Louis who came to participate in the day's events. My role was the MC for the main events that day. While I wasn't announcing, I was fortunate enough to be able to walk around and interact with so many great athletes. One of the kids in particular really impacted me. He is an SSD student at my school, so I already was pretty familiar with him. However, I really got to know him well on that day. He came up to me with kind of a sad look on his face because he didn't think he did well in his event. On the way to his next event, I told him he did great and that as long as he had fun and tried his best he'd always win. After I said that I immediately saw the biggest smile on his face, he gave me a high five, and said thank you. I didn't realize how much it meant to me that I had made such a positive impact on him until after the day was over. I still enjoy seeing him in the hall at school and getting a hug or high five.

This live changing experience taught me that my actions can have a great positive impact on others; and through these specific occasions, I have directly seen the effects of my actions on other people's lives. I am now conscious of being more positive and encouraging towards others, because I know how strong of an impact the smallest action towards somebody else can be. As I leave for college and then begin a career and start a family I will continue to live my life by the Four Way Test and it will surely be beneficial to all concerned.