

ONE FISH, TWO FISH, WE LOVE TO DO F.I.S.H

As I sit thinking about this article and my daughter's Girl Scout Troop's, experience volunteering as a FISH Hospitality host, I was not sure how to approach writing it. It should be meaningful, yes...but should it be humorous? Serious? Would I be able to convey how I feel about hosting? Then it came to me as I looked at all the holiday decorations and listened to the carols and music of the season, knowing that pretty soon it would all be gone and packed away until next year. I was especially touched by the Elvis Presley tune: "If Every Day was Like Christmas", a song I must have heard a million times and never really paid much attention to. The lyrics of the chorus sang out:

**"Oh why can't every day be like Christmas?
Why can't that feeling go on endlessly?
For if everyday could be just like Christmas,
What a wonderful world this would be".**

And that about sums up how I feel when I volunteer to host FISH Hospitality Program. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the feelings that you have in this special Holiday season did last all year? Well when I host, it is Christmas in July, or maybe Thanksgiving in October with all the trimmings. I "visit" with "friends" and pass on "cheer", "peace", and "the smile upon a tiny face" that I may see, "is worth more to me than anything". And in return, the gifts I receive are peace, love, grace and joy too.

Here are some of the Girl Scout's (ages 11-13) answers to "What makes hosting FISH great to you"?

"I especially like it when there are babies."

"I love when there are kids our ages."

"When I set the tables and help serve dinner and make sure that the tables look nice for the guests."

"It's fun to talk with the guests and hear what's going on in their lives, what they like and don't like about school, etc."

"Planning a menu and helping to cook the meal is fun."

"I like when we are done eating and we can dance or play with each other."

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