

July 10, 2011

Dear Dr. Myhrvold,

Thank you so much for making it possible for me to attend Adventures of the Mind 2011 in Missoula, Montana. It was a wonderful experience that I will not soon forget. I was very impressed by how many successful and interesting people were willing to gather at the University of Montana for a weekend to about their passions talk with teenagers (and by how many of them were college drop-outs who got lucky!). I particularly enjoyed the talks by Dr. Samuel Wang, Carol Greider, Walter Kirn, Anna Thomas, Kathy and Bill Magee (founders of Operation Smile), and M. Sanjayan. My main interests are in science, specifically environmental science and medicine, but I also love art and working with people. Most of the speakers were hilarious people with inspiring stories, and it was enjoyable to hear them speak.

The theme of the summit seemed to be that all fields are connected, now more than ever. It's a small world after all, and it will only continue to shrink. Environmental problems can't be separated from business, which can't be separated from politics or journalism or sociology. All the speakers worked in the message that the current generation is passing on a messed up world, a great and terrible burden for my generation to bear. That there is so much for us to improve and we must work together to succeed. We all know it's true, so at first it felt disheartening and overwhelming to hear it repeated over and over. I used to feel relatively alone in my desire and efforts to change the world from an early age. Adventures of the Mind, however, helped affirm that many of my peers are also focused on balancing the burden on their shoulders. One group of teenagers has started I care We care, an organization depending on social networking that is devoted to addressing global issues on a local level. Teens can discuss ideas and issues they are passionate about and get support and suggestions from other teens in their area and around the world. I just remember thinking that I have been to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, the International Science and Engineering Fair, and I can honestly say that Adventures of the Mind was better!

Again, thank you very, very much. I met many fascinating students, scientists, mathematicians, writers, artists, and adventurers in general. I was hoping to meet you as well—who knows, perhaps one day I will! Until then, I wish you the best in all your mind-boggling endeavors. From what I've read, you are an amazingly accomplished person, and I am truly honored that you sponsored me.

Sincerely,

Roshny Vijayakar