

Dear Mr. Aldrich,

As I look back on the summer, I realize I have grown immensely in my knowledge, my leadership skills, and overall as a person. Grab the Torch was the opportunity that enabled that growth. From the very first day of the camp, when we visited the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, I could tell that something special was happening. As soon as we walked onto the campground, I could feel the magic and emotion that you had told us about. As the week progressed, each day seemed more incredible than the one before. Meeting and hearing the stories of all the amazing people we met, including Kelly Peeler, Margaret McKenna, and Luana Nissan was an experience I will never forget. Simply being with and listening to such influential people made me realize what I could one day be capable of with enough passion, hard work, and dedication. Also, being able to meet Charlotte Beyer, the woman responsible for Westover's affiliation with you and the camp, was a gift. I cannot thank the both of you enough for everything you have done for me and the other Westover girls. Seeing Crystal Pemberton was also a wonderful surprise, and I was so delighted to see that you and the camp were forming even stronger connections with Westover girls. Being interested in art, learning about the American Mural Project and seeing the astonishing work Ellen had done on it so far was also an astonishing and inspiring experience. Not only did the people I met and the connections I made at Grab the Torch amaze me, but the places you took us to left me stunned as well. Being inside the John Hancock Building, exploring Boston and Newport, and staying at the beautiful St. Georges were opportunities I might never get to experience again. Also, meeting and talking with your aunt and uncle was more than a privilege. I was honored that they opened their gorgeous home to us with such hospitality, and I was so pleased that I was able to listen to your aunt's stories

about her amazing life. They both were so kind, and I am very grateful for the chance to spend time with them. Having met so many inspiring people and having traveled to so many astonishing places has made me think about how much you and this camp have done for me. Learning about philanthropy and leadership, as well as hearing directly from some of the most influential leaders in the field today, has made me realize how much I want to help others and eventually establish myself as a leader in the philanthropic world. I learned more about myself in a week than I have almost my whole life. Through the fingerprints curriculum and the help of the wonderful interns, I learned so much about what my beliefs and values are, what personal goals I have, what my mission statement is, and overall who I am as a person. Over the course of only one week, I matured and gained a confidence I might never have been able to without your help. I learned valuable life skills, as well as leadership skills, that will undoubtedly help me this coming year and throughout all of my life. I want to thank you so much for giving me this amazing opportunity and for sharing this unforgettable experience with me. I know I will remember the lessons I learned at Grab the Torch and the exhilarating joy I felt as I climbed the rigging aboard the Mystic for the rest of my life. I cannot express my gratitude enough for everything you have done for me, and I can only hope to one day become a part of the unbelievable world that you introduced me to for a week.

Thank you so much,

Nola