

Testimonial Letter

Beyond Borders students leave with some of the best memories they will ever make. They leave so inspired and full of passion. They leave with a newly-found sense of purpose, and constantly strive to achieve success, regardless of what their purpose is.

Had someone told me that in one semester I would make 43 new friends, who I would feel closer with than almost anyone before. That I would build two new strong relationships, with people I hope to have play a significant role in my life forever. That I would visit New York City for the first time, and yet have an outdoors camp in September be better than the Big Apple. That I would ever play a role in raising close to \$50,000 for charity. Or that I would ever feel as confident, happy, and proud as I have throughout this last semester, I would have probably called you crazy. And yet, I did all that, and so much more, thanks to one program, which I almost didn't apply to.

Beyond Borders, for most students that participate, is the most influential experience they have ever taken part in. It changes people, always for the best. It helps open your eyes to new ideas, paths, opinions, lessons, that would be unattainable anywhere else. It gives you life-lasting memories, and builds connections you will hope to cherish forever. The excitement you have to go to school in the morning, or work on a project is not found anywhere else. The opportunity to travel and experience things and make connections like you can in Beyond Borders is unthinkable until you actually do it. It prepares you for university unlike anything else, same with preparing you for the real world. It teaches you how to be a strong student, a passionate learner, and a member of a community. It will bring you such joy, thanks to the teachers, the classmates, the trips, the games, the challenges.

To quote my journal "BB is perfect. Everything I could have imagined and more". It has changed me and countless others, and everyone leaves a stronger, more diverse, focused, and caring person. If the question ever truly arose of if the program should continue, myself and probably hundreds of others would vouch for it and spend days trying to convince anyone of it's importance and how it deserves to exist. For the rest of my life I will recommend Beyond Borders, and I hope one day not only will it expand to accept for Guelph students, but it will grow to dominate Canadian education, and play the special role I have seen it play, in the lives of thousands of others.

Zachary Fairfield-Bell