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My. Disney experience

By Brianna Nicole Bazemore

Walt Disney World is the land of magic, of wonder, and of dreams. This year, I was a member of the 2011 Disney Dreamers' Academy and it was, by far, one of the best experiences I've ever had!

Many of my friends have asked me what it takes to become a dreamer. My reply: an application, three good essays and patience. That is one of the best things about



Brianna Bazemore poses on stage with American Idol Ruben Studdard.

the Dreamers Academy. The selection criterion isn't based on your grades, income, or career path. The Dreamers Academy is based on who you are and how good of a representative you will be for the academy.

My mother is always so persistent about getting me into this special program and that program, and I often tell her that applying is pointless because I never get accepted but I am glad I listened to her this time. If I had not taken the Dreamers Academy's application process seriously, I would not have been one of the 100 students selected to attend from a pool of 4,000 other students.

As a dreamer, you get to experience all the magic Disney has to offer. One of my experiences was diving into the



“American Idol Experience.” Standing on stage in front of my peers gave me the chance to shine. I sang, “The Climb” by Miley Cyrus and according to the dreamers, I rocked! My performance led me to a finalist spot. Who would have thought? The possibilities are endless! My participation in the American Idol Experience was life changing

Words cannot express how grand it is to be able to be a part of this journey. Being here has caused me to break down the barriers of my mind, to dream BIG and know that dreams do come true.

There was no reason to second guess or down myself because I was there! I was selected out of



4,000 other people because I was supposed to be there. I believe God places us where we need to be at ALL times. My purpose here is not yet clear but I am sure I'll know before this journey is over.

There was a time in my life when I didn't believe in dreams - or anything for that matter. From all the experiences I've had from childhood I just always thought dreams were impossible. I didn't grow up seeing anyone dream or have ambitions. I was always told to get a good solid 9 to 5 job because it was safe and secure. I went along with the idea because that is what is always drilled into your head, even though I never pictured myself doing a 9 to 5.

Before this experience, I couldn't fathom having a dream, let alone, becoming a dreamer! My trip will go down in my history book and I cannot wait to see what other life-changing experiences I will have later on in life, but I do know whatever I do and whatever I become I will have the Disney Dreamer's Academy to thank.

So, thank you Steve Harvey, Mikki Taylor and everyone who contributed to making this possible. You have truly taught me how to dream!

Brianna Bazemore is a student at Suttland High School in Forestville, MD.

Comedian and radio host Steve Harvey with Mikki Taylor, who represented Essence magazine, are surrounded by students from the 2011 Disney's Dreamers Academy.