

Northside Neighbor
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Teenagers Spend Summer Working at EOA Center

Two northside Atlanta teen-agers are spending their summer without pay keeping up with 150 active, noisy children.

"It's hectic, but these kids are like other kids. There just isn't any difference because of color," said Walter DuPre, 15, 2677 Arden Road, N.W. one of the recreation volunteers at the West End Neighborhood Service Center of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

"I never worked with kids before," said Paul Duke, 16, 3515 Paces Ferry Road, N.W. "The trips and activities mean a lot to them—and me. It's very boring for them when they have nothing to do.

DuPre and Duke attend Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va., and knew each other before they volunteered their services this summer.

DuPre said he took the job because he was interested in learning about Atlanta. "During spring vacation I started calling agencies to see

what I could do. I kept getting referred from one agency to another until I got to EOA and talked to Mrs. June Sammons, volunteer coordinator."

Duke said he became interested in the work because of DuPre and because he wanted to work with youngsters. "I've learned a lot about patience since I've been with the center. The work has been very satisfying."

The young men work five days a week in their volunteer jobs. Both will miss summer vacations to continue their work.

"We plan recreation for the kids," DuPre said. "We take them swimming, to the movies and have taken them to Fernbank Science Center. We plan to take them to Stone Mountain and are trying to bum tickets to other recreational facilities."

Both young men are swarmed by yelling kids all day long, and they enjoy the quiet when they go home at night.