

Kara J. Ward

“What Youth Soccer Has Meant To Me”

Throughout the last nine years of soccer, I have learned the value of teamwork, integrity, and friendship, and enjoyed every second of it. Youth recreational soccer has impacted my life in many ways, shaping me into the person I am today. From my first soccer practice to my last game with my closest friends, I have had the experience of a lifetime. I tried competitive soccer for a year, but realized that recreational soccer was the only thing right for me. I enjoyed the challenge of competing with higher-skilled players, but I missed my friends, whom although were skilled enough for competitive soccer, could not afford the expenses, which I soon found I couldn't afford either. I found recreational soccer still provided the experience I needed to be able to compete in the high school level without the constant pressure to be perfect or the heavy expense. I am so thankful for the friends I have made and coaches I have played under in FCSA.

Some things I will always cherish from FCSA recreational soccer are: long rides home from games in my parents' mini-van, great friendships I've made, and the satisfaction of knowing that long hours of hard-work and dedication never went unnoticed or unappreciated by my coaches. The influence of FCSA recreational soccer in my life has led to the development of my work ethic, the tremendous boost in my self-confidence, and lastly, the possibility for me to achieve a higher education and be able to play soccer at the university level.