

Coralville Recreation Center
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Coralville, IA 52241

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**The “I’m a Star” program or “How I Spent a Week
this Summer as the Wizard of Oz”
By Joel Carver, age 10**

“I am OZ, the great and terrible” – so began my part in the “wizard of OZ”. This is the story of how I spent a week this summer not only playing the part of the Wizard, but also learning about set-design, costuming, acting, staging, voice projection, and various other aspects of being a participant in a play. My mom discovered the program while reading the summer activity booklet for Coralville Parks and recreation and asked me whether I wanted to do it or not. I said “YES!!!: and we registered for the camp.

We received the script in the mail the week before the camp and I knew at once that I wanted to be OZ. I read through the script with my parents a few times a day, trying different parts. (I even tried Dorothy!) I was very excited to go to this camp.

The first day, we read through the script a few times and chose characters. When I read the part of OZ, our

director was thoroughly convinced that I would do the part really well. We were supposed to learn our lines at home each day.

The second day, we practiced our parts scene by scene. After we practiced all the scenes, we then painted the set. I helped paint the Wicked Witch’s castle and the Munchkin Land sky with the sun in it. When we painted the Wicked Witch’s castle, we made a big thunderstorm with a huge tornado (I painted the tornado). It was fun to paint and see our set begin to emerge.

The third and fourth days we practiced scenes. On the fourth day, we also painted the cardboard that became OZ’s throne. We built (with boxes) the Emerald City, and created a scrim for stage right. We made a tape of sound effects with a person from West Music.

Finally, the day of the performance arrived! We did a dress rehearsal and then waited for the REAL performance to begin. Lots of people came to see us – mostly parents and grandparents. The show was nerve-wracking but fun. It was a great experience to be in this play – I learned a lot!

I hope to participate in another activity like this again soon. I also hope to someday be in an official City Circle production!!