

**Sapphire Joy - 7th Grade**

**Bellows Falls Middle School - A.I.M. Afterschool Program**

Hello, my name is Sapphire Joy from Saxtons River, Vermont. I'm 12 years old and a 7th grader at Bellows Falls Middle School. I'm here to tell you about afterschool and summer AIM program. Without summer A.I.M., I would be home alone all summer long. Most parents in Bellows Falls work during the day. What are kids supposed to do all day? Hang out with no supervision and stay at home cooped up?

But A.I.M. changed me and I found the joy of being outdoors. I got to try new things and connect with new friends. One place we visited last summer were the polar caves in Rumney, NH and being there offered us a unique learning experience. For example, did you know that there are a set of caves in New Hampshire that were formed made by glacier ice? My summer experience taught me to respect others and appreciate the world around me.

I also love our afterschool program - it runs from 3 to 5. We can get a free meal right after school and mingle with friends until clubs start at 3:30. When clubs start, you can chose from a wide range of activities or just simply get your homework done. Homework club always has supplies and support from their amazing, loving tutors and staff. We always have different clubs to choose from throughout different sessions in the school year, but we always have our awesome and helpful homework club.

I value this program because you can be yourself and choose what you want to do with your time.

Thank you to all the senators for hearing me out about A.I.M. Afterschool and summer programs.