

Lopez: a Safe Place for Children

Growing up on Lopez is a charming, unforgettable experience. The open and friendly community, the unique opportunities, and the diverse people all create a beautiful environment for children to grow up in. One of the most distinct features of our community, however, is its safety.

As the world's population steadily grows, it becomes more and more dangerous, especially for children. Kids around the world are victims to car accidents, abduction, and abuse. Here on Lopez, however, children can walk around unsupervised without having to worry about any such dangers. Kids can stroll through town without getting mugged or harassed. People are able to hitchhike without getting picked up by a psychopath. Children and adults alike can ride their bikes all over the island without being menaced by speeding cars. There is minimal traffic, and not a single speed limit over 45 mph, and car accidents are about as rare as Bigfoot sightings. It's even near impossible to get lost on the island, and if you do get lost, it's not for very long. Also, there are no bears, cougars, or wolves on the island, so no one has to worry about having their child devoured by wild animals. Hard drugs, thievery, and physical abuse are not issues at the school; and if they were, the other students would put a stop to it.

Another aspect of Lopez's safety comes from its inhabitants. The residents of Lopez care about the children of the community: they watch out for them, they volunteer at the Children's Resource Center, they go to school events, and they pitch in money for scholarships. If a child is having problems at home, there are plenty of trustworthy adults they can talk to who will take action. The community's care is genuine, and not something you see often in bigger towns or cities.

Growing up on Lopez is an experience I wish every child could have. To be able to go out, day or night, and not have to worry about one's safety is something that is not common nowadays. Knowing and trusting the people around her can change a child's life and fill it with optimism. The warmth of Lopez and its community can be seen in all of its children; the energy they emit is beautifully infectious. All children should be able to grow up in a place like Lopez, where safety is unquestionable and loving people are all around them.