

Dear El Paso County Board,

I have heard that the Colorado Pumpkin Patch might possibly be faced with a shut down and I was heartbroken! The Patch is such an important part of our family tradition each fall. We love it so much that our older teens have started working there. I wanted to share with you a letter I sent to the owners at the end of last season and request that you would consider allowing them to stay open. They are an asset to the Colorado Springs/Monument communities. There isn't any other place that appeals to the entire family the way that the Colorado Pumpkin Patch does.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emma Petersen

Dear JD and Bengetta,

I wanted to thank you so much for the work opportunity you gave our teens this past September and October at the Colorado Pumpkin Patch. In a world where teens have so many distractions clamoring for their attention, the Patch has been a breath of fresh air. Our children were able to work with their hands, serve the general public, and learn how to communicate effectively with their peers, bosses, and with the guests of the Pumpkin Patch.

There are not very many places in this world today for the type of work experience they were able to have this fall. They had to learn how to prepare in advance for all sorts of weather, while maintaining a positive attitude and being service minded in their every action. Working outside in the fresh air was just an added benefit!

As you know, with a clientele ranging from infants through grandparents, school groups, single child homes, and special needs children and adults, workers must be adaptable and service minded in order to create a fun experience for everyone. Our oldest son, who typically worked the slides station, shared stories about how he was able to help children and adults who were struggling to get themselves up the slides with their tubes and how he was able to help encourage them and support them in doing something so fun.

Overall, the skills they executed with their hands was unlike any experience they've had. They got to help construct various buildings, work in food service, care for animals, etc. I'm so grateful for the varied skill set that they were able to learn hands-on. You all have been such a blessing to our family. I hope to have all of our children work with you in the years to come.

I appreciate you,

Emma Petersen