I had a student who got interested in the QuarkNet cosmic ray detector and stayed after school to experiment with it. As an undergraduate, he got connected with a professor involved in an international cosmic ray experiment, and joined the research team. Despite mediocre grades and GRE scores, thanks to his recommendation by that professor he was accepted into a PhD astrophysics program. He is currently spending the winter of 2017 in Antarctica, testing components for the SPT-3G cosmology telescope! When he came to visit me, he told me it all began with those long days after school using the QuarkNet detectors.

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