

Another school year has begun and time to reflect on our summer vacation. This summer when I told people I was headed to Ohio I was usually met with a puzzled look. You know, the one where their eyes squint and they secretly say to themselves “Huh?” My family and I traveled to Ohio, yes Ohio, no we didn’t go to go Ohio to visit family. Many people would ask me why I’d be so enthusiastic to go to Ohio for a week. For my brother and I, this trip to Ohio was a dream for us, something that I wanted to do for several years after riding my first major roller coaster at Canobie Lake Park when I was younger (a few people reading this just figured out what I’m talking about, the rest are still scratching their heads.) After visiting almost every major amusement park along the East Coast and watching the several Travel Channel documentaries discussing it, I was finally going to the biggest and best, Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, also known as “The Roller Coaster Capital of the World”. Even before going I could recite every roller coaster in the park and remember which held world records. As we approached the front gate, the gigantic structures rose up in front our eyes, determined to conquer each and every one. As we entered the park I was over whelmed by what to go on first. The days of walking down Main Street USA at Disney World was instantly rivaled by the Midway at Cedar Point. I was finally here.

There was one moment while I was at Cedar Point that were instantly memorable. The first is for those who are truly amusement park diehards. The second day we were there I was lucky enough to arrive when the park opened. Everyone like me gathers near the entrance and gets ready for the “run.” As the clock ticked closer to 9 am everyone gets into their starting positions. After the National Anthem the race is on. Several

hundred people shove past each other trying to be the first in line at the parks most popular rides. The best way to imagine this is to think about the running of the bulls combined with a track meet. It is unlike anything I've experienced before. Grown men are shoving young kids just so they can get the front seat. Luckily I was in good enough shape so I easily in the front of the lines. Upon reaching the lines, sweat was pouring down my face, I just ran through one of the worlds largest amusements parks in a full out sprint. It was worth it though when I only had to wait 5 minutes for a ride that usually has a waiting time of more than 2 hours.

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