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Mono Lake Committee Scholarship 2009

I never knew how fortunate I was to live in such a beautiful place. I took living near Mono Lake for granted. Tourist would come up to me and say, "You are so lucky to live in this area!" I would smile back and think in my head, "Why?" When I was growing up, I would take field trips with the school to go canoeing on Mono Lake or go on hikes up to Panum Crater and never really put any importance in it. I thought, "Great I don't have to do school work today!" Recently, I decided to take a walk down to Mono Lake and I discovered something that I never thought I would find.

I woke up early one morning to find I was home alone. My friends were out of town and I didn't have a single clue of just what I was going to be doing that day. I sat in my room thinking of some kind of activity that would make my day go by fast. I looked out the window and noticed that it was really sunny out and the temperature was just right, not too hot and not too cold. I said to myself "I guess I'll go for a walk!"

I didn't know where exactly I was going, so I just started to walk down the street along highway 395. I crossed the street and made my way to Hess Park and sat down on a swing. While I was on the swing, I glanced at the Lake, wondering what was going on down there that very moment. So, I got up from the swing and decided to walk down to the lake to see what was going on. It took me about 30 minutes to get to the lake and the first thing I did was go and put my hands in the water. I found a rock to sit on, and I sat down and just looked at the lake. While I was sitting down, I realized that I live in a beautiful place. I was surrounded by this amazing scenery that was in my backyard. Others spend a great deal of money just to experience this for a week or two. I live here and never took the time to appreciate it. It got late so I started to walk home. On my way back, I promised myself that I would visit the lake more often.

Ever since that day, I am thankful to have Mono Lake and the Mono Basin in my own back yard. I appreciate the fact that I get to live in such an amazing place. I go to the lake at least once a week and just admire the beauty of my surroundings. I also want to try new things like camping, hiking, canoeing, and rock climbing.

A while back, I couldn't wait to get out of Lee Vining. This experience changed my mind and I chose to go to Cerro Coso Community College in Mammoth Lakes, California. This will allow me to accomplish what I want, without leaving the area to go to college. Now I know not to take the small things granted and appreciate my life so much more.