

Alekos Mckee

## **Mono Lake Committee Scholarship 2012: Essay Questions**

Mono Lake has been a part of my life ever since I moved to Mammoth when I was three. From going on field trips and eating the flies to seeing pictures of it all over the internet, Mono Lake has impacted my life in only positive ways. The greatest influence it had on me was during my freshman and sophomore years in high school, during these years I traveled everyday from Mammoth to Bridgeport to attend the Eastern Sierra Academy. Every morning as we went up Conway Summit, the sun would be peeking out the from White Mountains casting a gorgeous and breathtaking light across all of Mono Lake. This spectacular sight was what I looked forward to every day e from the back seat of an excursion. I enjoyed every sight of it, from the warm summer mornings when the lake is a spectacular blue to when the winter mornings when the lake turns a green color and there is a fresh layer of snow that gives it all a peaceful and surreal look.

However this was sadly taken away from me when the Academy was closed due to budget problems. The teachers were moved to Lee Vining High School and I followed. A few weeks into school I overheard some of my friends talk about how beautiful the lake looked over Conway, it was that moment when I realized how much I had missed the view of Mono Lake. I had no longer been able to go to the school of my dreams and now the sight which I had once cherished was gone. Heartbroken and angry I set myself out to find some good in this whole situation, I found it one day when I came into school early to do some AP Physics studying. This morning I drove up into the parking lot to see a bright golden light once again peering over the tops of the mountains. I went out to the football field and stood there as the sun crawled over the mountain range. It was this moment that I realized I had something no other student could ever experience. I was so sad that I could no longer see the lake from a car that I never realized I went to school right beside it. This moment has now made me look for the good in things rather than curse the bad. I now go to an amazing school, with amazing teachers and students that is located right outside an amazing natural landmark. This has given me the ability to see the good in everything whether it is college or even the future. Leaving Mono county to go off college is going to be a tough and hard move however the experiences I have received from living here will help me no matter where I go.