

## **Mono Lake Committee Scholarship 2012**

Living in an area that has so many natural beauties, such as mono lake, has had a strong influence in both my life and in my choice of colleges. It is only natural for something as big as mono lake to influence my life, after all I have lived here for my entire life, and that has given me a respect for our ever depleting natural recourses.

I plan on attending Humboldt State in the Fall and studying environmental sciences, I feel like if I had not lived in an area that is so in tuned to the natural world, I would not have even considered a future in studying the environment. On top of the beautiful environment that I have grown up in, I have also been involved in the local forest service, doing work on the trails and really getting involved in the preservation of this beautiful natural environment. In some ways the "nature versus nurture" conflict comes into question. Was I born with this love of nature and wild and free places, or was it fed into me because I grew up in such a place? I think it has to do a little bit with both, if I had never seen the beauty, the enormity, of it all up close, I doubt I would be as passionate about nature as I am. Similarly, I feel that it is part of my nature, so to speak, to have such a ardor for the beauty of the world, and it was just luck that I should come to live in one of the most beautiful places in the United States.

My choice of college, and my current wish for a career greatly reflect the life I have lived in this area. Humboldt State is one of the best schools to go to if you love outdoor adventure, and all career paths that I want to follow have a strong connection to

the natural world. I feel like it has to do with the way I grew up, having a respect for nature, that drives me to want to be outside in the most beautiful environments. It is an honor to say that I grew up so close to Mono Lake, and have been able to enjoy what it has brought to this community, after the hard work wonderful people have put into protecting it for future generations to see.