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What Drives YOU?

I am driven by the whispering and aching dance of the winds that grab at my hair and skin. The mysterious moon that laughs at me through beams of silver breath. The wild call of the coyote that beckons the storms and asks them why they roam. I am driven by the abrasive nature of the sun, how it can pull a smile to your face but leave you red and singed. I am driven by the wild serenity of that smell in the morning after it rains, how the dirt and the sage are welded together to bless your senses. I am driven by all of nature, how it beckons us to look both farther into ourselves and outside of ourselves.

Through the division of my family, exhaustion, stress, fear, and deep sadness I can always depend on nature to care and nurture me. When my circumstances become overwhelming, a walk in the outdoors can change my mindset and renew my energy. Every experience I have with nature, both bizarre and ordinary can captivate me beyond simple intrigue, but as a total reverence to its tranquility, perfection, and phenomena. It never ceases to nurse us even as we morph, torment, and hide from it. I hope to give back to nature and give more people the opportunity to share its benefits. I plan to study landscape architecture and grow my knowledge and appreciation for nature and our relationship with it.

For centuries, human civilizations lived amongst the earth, finding passion, culture, and happiness within it, but in modern society, experiencing the outdoors has become a privilege; one that requires money, free time and sometimes travel. When civilizations ran from nature in

search of comfort, we lost so many of its health benefits, both mentally and physically. My encounters with nature can change my mood, mindset and clarity, filling me with a sense of peace and inspiration. Throughout my childhood, nature taught me to seek creativity and gave me an outlet to express myself. Nature has always had a huge influence on my art and appreciation for beauty and I would love to in turn implement art into nature through environmental design. I would work to create sustainable gardens in low-income neighborhoods and design creative ways to weave an ecosystem into cities. With pollution and climate change on the rise, increased sustainability and economic greenery could make a huge improvement for living qualities in urban areas, especially under serviced neighborhoods.

I find so much peace and clarity from time spent in the outdoors, I wish that more American's had the same access to nature. Beautiful landscapes should not be reserved for only the wealthier members of society, but also implemented in struggling public places. Knowing the impact that outdoor experiences have had on myself, I feel the need to give more people the same opportunity. As a landscape architect I would reinvent our urban planning and bring nature back into human civilizations, especially those who are under serviced.