

Oscar Farias

July 24, 2012

My name is Oscar Navarro Farias. I am currently enrolled in the Sequoia Community Corps, and have been enrolled for one year. I love being in the Corps because I have the opportunity to finish my high school education and develop work skills. Since I have been in the SCC, I have been to the Sequoia National Park to help promote Earth Day and the preservation of the plants. I have been to local schools and retirement homes to educate about recycling. I have spoken at assemblies to groups of children and have conducted smaller class presentations to teach children about natural resources and the importance of recycling. Our Recycling team also put together a booth at public events to help get the community educated on what items and material are recyclable. As a Recycling Specialist I'm responsible to contact a variety of businesses to develop new accounts and to promote recycling.

Before I came into the SCC I was working at an I-HOP Restaurant. I started off as a dishwasher and one year after I was promoted to hosting; then soon after I became a cook. I worked for I-HOP for four years. I realized that there was no more room for growth with that company, except for management. I knew I needed a high school diploma for that. I decided if I wanted anything better than a job as a Cook, I had to go back to school and earn my diploma. When I first started with the SCC I only had eleven units for my diploma. Obtaining my diploma felt impossible because of the amounts of credits I still needed. After a year and a half and taking advantage of the opportunities that the SCC offered, I was able to earn 80 credits towards my diploma. The SCC gave me the ability to grow and expand my strengths. Applying for the Corps was the best thing I did for myself. Being in the Corps has affected my life in a positive way. I now feel that the sky is the limit and I have a positive outlook on my future

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thanks to the Corps. My goals for the future are to finish earning my diploma and then enroll into college. I would like to get a job that pays well so that I can save money to start up my own business. I would like to own my own restaurant and/or barber shop. I sincerely feel that if SCC had not allowed me to work for them I would not have had a chance at completing many of my life goals. Thanks to the Sequoia Community Corps I now have hope for a brighter future.

I am asking to keep the funding for my community conservation corps in the Bottle Bill. The SCC helps our environment by educating our communities and most importantly it helps to give hope to young people that otherwise would not have an opportunity to turn their life around. It is important to me because I know what it feels like when you feel you have no other options or routes to take that can move you forward in life. I have seen and experienced the positive and wonderful opportunities that the Sequoia Community Corps provides and can make possible for young people like me. I want to help keep it going so that others have the same great experiences. It is important because it helps so many communities in our country. Thank you.