

## Earth Stewardship Essay

### -The Earth Steward-

Being on the Los Fresnos High School Cross Country Team, I run through empty fields, grassy canals, and pits of mud. Running, a personal passion, has allowed me to experience the beauty of nature by allowing me to enjoy its presence while I am alone. I love being outside with the sun above me, the wind blowing in my face and fresh air cooling my body. There is no greater sight than fields of green and the view of trees while running away from any civilization.

---

The earth is a beautiful thing and it is hard to believe that some people take advantage of its natural beauty and resources. I hope that one day I can use my skills and love of science to protect our lovely home.

I love running in the farm roads connecting small town to small town. I run way out of city limits and enjoy the freedom of letting my feet take me wherever I please. One run, in beautiful mid-winter, as I was training for a half-marathon, I decided to take a dirt road which connects two small towns. The distance was a mere seven miles and I took off early that day to avoid any danger in the nearby wilderness, like coyotes or wild dogs. I ran that day, fairly slow, and enjoyed the beauty of the trees and sky surrounding me, but as I got farther out of town horror struck me as I looked glanced around. There was trash everywhere! There were broken televisions, shattered beds, and tires everywhere. Trash filled up the dirt path and I had to jump over filth several times. This disaster ruined the beauty of the trees and sky and seemed to darken the mood to a dirty grey. I was shattered by the filth I had witnessed and I am still haunted by the failure of mankind to keep our beautiful home clean. Every time I think of that

cold December run, I remember the smell of pampers and rusted metal, instead of the effervescent personality of nature and the sky. This sad scene, in the middle of nowhere Texas, allows me to picture the nightmarish trash in big cities and the rest of the world. With landfills and human waste growing everywhere, we must do something to properly live at peace on this planet.

Although I cannot make definitive changes to the preservation of our earth, I can still make small decisions that will make a difference in my eyes. I have recycled aluminum cans since a very young age, to help pay for my incessant wants. It used to be a quick way for my young self to make ends meet and buy my lifetime supply of candy, but now as an older teen, I realize the importance of recycling to help clean this earth. In addition to recycling I have participated in highway cleanups with The National Honor Society and I am hopeful to participate in several more before the year is up, including the Texas Trash off on April 14! I know that these are very small touches to cleaning the earth, but in hope of doing more I am planning to look into beach cleanup. I know that there is a Surfer's Club which cleans up the dunes, and so I want to look into that because the beach is a beautiful place where I love to go and cleaning up South Padre Island would be a wonderful task to be a part of. I am still young and my gifts to the earth are tiny, but I hope to one day make larger contributions to this place we call home.

My education is another milestone that will affect my ability to change the world. As of right now, I am enrolled in the Physics Department at the University of Texas at Austin. My hope is to obtain a degree in physics for now, and to later study nuclear physics or nuclear

engineering. I would love to work with the development of nuclear power plants and construct power plants to be truly eco-friendly. No doubt, nuclear power plants are controversial and can be damaging to the surrounding environment, but I believe that this technology can change the world. I want to help develop new plants that will not only provide clean energy, but be more efficient, and have little to no waste whatsoever! I have promised myself that I will not hurt the earth, and cross my morals, by putting forth plants that damage the earth. This young new industry has the potential to be developed into the best source of truly clean energy. Even if this industry is not the one that will alter energy sources forever, this technology will be a large step forward toward discovery of new, even more, efficient technologies. Ultimately, with a degree in engineering or science, I want to work in Research and Development to create new techniques that will change the world. My ultimate dream is to work toward developing new ideas that clean the earth and make our home a better place to live. I strive to be able to make life easier for people everywhere, but to do so without damaging the beautiful surroundings.

Planet Earth is a beautiful blue planet and is very rare indeed to our universe. The world is full of amazing feats like dragon flies, snap dragons, and komodo dragons that cannot be sacrificed. Nature is amazing! Humans, with our intelligent life, should utilize our skills to improve our way of life and to enhance and understand the natural beauty of the world. My ultimate goal in life is to improve the lives of men, and to do so cleanly so that one day I can go for a run and feel the clean air rush through my body.