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One of my favorite and earliest memories takes place in the beautiful scenery of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. I can remember jumping into the creek next to our campsite in the middle of nowhere with my cousins, catching frogs, and picking delicious huckleberries to put in our pancakes the next morning. While this memory mostly brings up feelings of nostalgia, a bit of sadness is also in the mix. Sadness because this same place is completely different than when this memory was made. Sadness because my kids won't be able enjoy these same experiences and see the same natural beauty that I did. And sadness because this place is negatively changing because of the actions of me and every other human on the planet.

It wasn't until after taking my first environmental science class in high school, I decided that protecting the environment was an extreme passion of mine, and that I would turn this passion into my career. I want to protect our beautiful environment by spreading knowledge about its importance, and ways that we as humans can improve our habits to become more sustainable. As of now, to complete this goal I plan to become an environmental science teacher, but also love the idea of becoming an environmental consultant. I was recently accepted to the research university in Aarhus, Denmark, where I will be working with students from all over the world on developing a sustainability project next semester.

I want to have an impact on future generations to inspire them to *actually care* about how their decisions affect our environment. Oftentimes individuals assume that their efforts won't matter similarly how some view their vote doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things. If we collectively made an effort in our everyday lives (i.e. using cloth bags for shopping, turning off the lights before leaving the house, carpooling, etc) it will have profound effects on our environment. I want to be a part of that inspiration to care.