University Honors Program-Passion

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What?

Travel has been a passion of mine ever since I was old enough to appreciate the open road. Whether it was a trip to my family’s cabin in Michigan, indulging in magic at Disney World, or visiting relatives in Denver, I loved the feeling of packing and preparing to go somewhere new, somewhere I’d never seen. And I loved the adventures that would happen once we were actually *there*. I’ve been to Canada a few times, but never to a part of it that looked much different than the States. The only other place I’ve been abroad is Haiti, a country that is frequently thought of as dirty, desolated, and undeveloped, but one that in actuality is gorgeous. As I’ve gotten older, and both learned more about other places and actually had the chance to *go* new places, my wanderlust has only gotten stronger. The more I learn, the more I want to travel, and this fuels my passion.

So What?

This passion is significant because travel and education go hand in hand; the more you know about a different culture, the better off you are to understand people who come from a different background than what you have experienced. This leads to bonds forming and problems being solved better than they could have without that friendship. My love for travel grew slowly when I was child, and exploded towards the end of middle school. The more places I went, the more places I wanted to go, and the more books I read or pictures I saw, the more I wanted to have the chance to take my own pictures and make my own memories in far off places. Travel is something that constantly interests me because culture constantly changes; it’s impossible to see every single inch of this planet, and even those places that you have seen 2 or 200 times, they’re different every single time you return. Travel opens an infinite number of doors, because it stretches the traveler’s mind, exemplifying different cultures, beliefs, and landscapes, and it also brings better understanding of those same elements to the people who’s land is being traveled to.

Now What?

The best way to learn about other cultures is to immerse yourself in them, so my goal is to travel as much as I can, specifically in my college years/twenties, while I’m still young enough to do so and before I’m completely settled down with a job or family. UC gives an incredible amount of opportunities to do so, with study tours, study abroad financial and planning support, and the vast connections overseas. Taking advantage of these offers will both sate and fuel my passion, because while wanderlust is satisfied for a bit after a trip, the urge to go somewhere only gets worse as time passes. In journalism, the understanding of other countries and their citizens is crucial in reporting truth and giving an accurate depiction of a situation, especially since the US has citizens from all over the world, and is involved in many affairs abroad. The more I travel, the better I will be at my profession, and in turn, the better I am at my profession the more opportunities I will have to travel.