**Passions Reflection**

**What?**

My passion is and always has been nature and the outdoors. The admiration of the beauty of Planet Earth and the ability to join with the great outdoors by activity. I enjoy being able to simply be in nature, to be surrounded by ancient trees or a vast plain of grasses. Even more than this, I enjoy the community of actively becoming a part of nature. Skiing, hiking, climbing. The merging of myself with the natural world returns me to a more primal state of being. One where the stars are merely openings in the vast void of blackness, where the Milky Way isn’t a galaxy but an unending rift in the night sky. In this state of being, I no longer am concerned with who is going to win the presidential race or who the next up and coming artist is. The feeling of being so small that if you were to fall over right then and never stand back up, it would mean nothing and suddenly you’re afraid. Afraid that this has all been for nothing. And then you realize that it was all for something. It was for you and it was for the future generations. That realization is one that needs to be protected at all costs. For us now, and for all those who follow in our wake.

**So What?**

As a child, I grew up in the Cleveland Metroparks. No, I wasn’t raised by wolves and I didn’t hunt for my supper, but the Metroparks were a clearly defined place for me to think and explore and generally be a kid. As I grew into grade school, I was quick to join Cub Scouts. There I enjoyed camp-outs and learned skills that honestly wouldn’t stick with me for very long. After all, I was still a kid. Alongside Cub Scouts, I was in many programs with the Cleveland Metroparks. Through that I learned how frogs breathe through their skin, bats see through their ears, and plants slowly strangle each other to survive. I also learned many other things and it developed in me a passion for nature and the outdoors. As I grew older I aged out of Cub Scouts and crossed into the more mature, sophisticated Boy Scouts. I was almost immediately camping every month, never missing a camp-out until I was in the 11th grade. I relearned skills that I had long since forgotten and acquired new skills and ideas. One such idea was the idea of conservancy. An old Native American tradition was to leave the Earth for seven generations. This idea was forgotten in the hubbub of modernism and industrialization. It has become our job to reinstate that idea and revitalize the nature that we were born into and come from.

**Now What?**

It is important for me to learn about preservation and conservancy. There are techniques to do so that I have not learned yet and this has pushed me toward Environmental Engineering. I look at Env E as a compromise between complete barbarism and complete industrialization. It’s a discipline that promotes both human growth and conservancy. As such I believe it is important for me to enter the work force with a mind of conservation and keep my values and passions true to me.