

Dear NCI Scholarship Funders,

My name is Mia Villaluz, I live in a small town population 200 called Acme. I grew up in a small farm town and have always loved the outdoors. Because of you, I got to gain this amazing experience with NCI. I'd like to say thank you so much for your generous donations. I was on the 16 day course on science and sustainability.

We hiked the Cascade Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail!

On our trip we covered 50 miles with 60 pounds on our back in eleven days. I saw the most amazing views on this trip. At one of our campsites this big buck (male deer) showed up to hang out. My first instinct was I want to shoot it, but I didn't have a gun, so I shot it with my camera. I've been hunting & doing rodeo pretty much my whole life. This program really has inspired me to

be a better person, and give my life a purpose, work for a good cause. I am currently a junior at Mound Baker Highschool in Deming, Washington, but I'm enrolled in Skagit Valley Community College. I want to work on trail crew, then the forest service, but my dream job is to become a game warden. This trip meant so much to me. I made so many good connections with people who work for the park service, who care about our environment, and even better, who care about me. I made many good friends, great experiences, and got an even better education here.

Thank you so much for making this trip possible for me. You're amazing people & I really appreciate you guys! Have a great day! @out!

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Sincerely,  
Mia Precious Villaluz