

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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OSHA Scholarship Essay After ending the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry (Agriculture) course this semester, I have found it easier to find and identify hazards wherever I go. I don't have a job yet, but having this knowledge before I apply for a job will definitely make me safer and more observant while working. I have lived on a farm all my life, and since I have finished my safety training, I have been careful to watch out for a hazard every time I go outside. I also now have an expanded knowledge of how to work around certain animals and how to work near or around certain farm equipment. After high school, I want to go to college to become a veterinarian. The "Working Around Livestock" module in the OSHA safety training provided me with extremely important information for the career I want to work in. Also, when I become a veterinarian, I will most likely be doing house calls on farms, and I'll have to use the OSHA training to be careful around the possible farming equipment moving around the site. In addition, by having this knowledge, it will look really good on my resume allowing me to get a fairly good job, or so I've heard. What I learned while going through the program reinforced what I've been taught growing up on the farm which will help me on future jobs to remember what I should do to start safe and stay safe.

I learned that it's not safe to go inside a grain bin for too long and to wear protective equipment when going in one which is something I didn't know. This is important to know because my siblings and I go play in there all the time which I'm going to make sure we don't do anymore so none of us get sick or injured. I also learned it's not safe to be on a machine if there's not a seat for you. However all of my life, I have rode in a tractor with my dad or my grandpa and I've also rode in the skid-steer loader with my dad plenty of times. I know now that it is incredibly unsafe to do so and I will only ride in a machine if there's a seat for me, so I won't become injured or possibly killed. Another way I have become safer is I have stopped wearing headphones while doing chores so I can hear if a machine is moving around that I need to be aware of or if somebody calls my name to inform me of a hazard. Before, I would always wear earbuds while feeding our dogs or doing another simple chore. I didn't realize there could be a possible injury or accident if I was listening to music while walking around with a machine moving around.

I know that by having this new information and knowledge with me, I will be able to stay safe. I will be able to be more aware of hazards, will be on the lookout for potential hazards, and will be able to identify the hazard and how to approach it. I am also more prepared to become a veterinarian thanks to the "Working Around Livestock" module. I now have the basic information of where to stand when working with livestock and how to correctly behave around an animal. I know that the safety training OSHA has provided me will be very helpful to me in the future, and it has already helped me to be safe on my own property.