

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

Kylie Allen

Hargrave High School

Hello, my name is Kylie Allen and I am a senior at Hargrave High School. My parents taught me the significance of expanding my knowledge and instilling in me the desire to achieve academically. Both have held very high expectations for me and have always stressed the importance of being able to think independently. I have the drive to succeed and excel in everything that I do. I was raised to never give up and never say you can't do something. I label myself as a lifelong learner, wanting to continue my education/knowledge and take every opportunity that comes across my path. When the opportunity was presented to me to earn my OSHA 10-Hour General certification, I said "let's do it!"

While studying a unit over safety procures in my CTE class, we discussed/researched OSHA and its training and contribution to improve the safety and health of employees. During the course study my teacher discussed how having the OSHA training would give us an edge on the competition when applying for future jobs and that completing the training now would show future employers that we were serious about investing in their company. I decided to take the course and was truly impressed with the training I received. Having an OSHA certification on my resume has put me one step in front of my competition, and I find satisfaction staying in front of the pack.

I truly believe that having my OSHA certification helped land my current part time job. When I interviewed for my position my employer was impressed that I had my certification and told me that I might hear/see some of the after effects of people who do not follow safety precautions, and I have found for that to be true. I am currently working in the insurance field and have handled a few cases where there has been an injury on the property by a customer, or an employee has been injured due to an unsafe work environment. I have been on job location sites and have noticed some of the correct procedures in place but I have also witnessed some of the dangers that raise a red flag and could possibly end up hurting someone. I am not an expert in safety by any means but through my OSHA training I can identify a possible work hazard and bring it to the attention of the manager/owner on site. I am very fortunate that the company I work for recognizes the safety of their employees and does everything in their power to keep their employees safe. Having the OSHA training so early in my young adult life will benefit me tremendously. I have a better understanding of safe work practices, my rights as an employee, my employer's rights and how valuable I am as a member of a company who has already been trained in OSHA – saving my future employer time and money in training. OSHA standards are important, rules are put in place because at some point someone a sometime got hurt on the job. Rules and standards are there to benefit all who are involved in the company. I plan on pursuing the OSHA 30-Hour training in the near future. I want too expand my resume as well as learn more about safety training for future employment after all, everyone wants to work in a safe environment and proper training is where it starts. Safety training saves lives.