

My Ideal Community

When it comes to an ideal community, I believe that one in which cooperation and humanity are present is best. To solve problems and meet the needs of the community, cooperation is undeniably important. To that same ideal, having humanity and empathy for one another is also important. Throughout my years of Calaveras High School, I have seen firsthand how an ideal community can be achieved, and also how I can contribute to one on my own. I believe that an ideal community should have an eye of helpfulness to it and plans for the future as well.

All throughout my school life, I've been asked by my peers to help them out with homework or help them through problems they were having trouble with. From elementary school into middle and then to high school, I was always someone my peers could go to for help anytime they needed it. Something I realized, though, is that many students do not have these kinds of support systems in all of their classes, so I had an idea to found a tutoring program on my own and help kids in need. Through Linden's Tutoring Service, I have tutored more than 15 students on a variety of subjects, but math specifically. When I wasn't tutoring students in need, I was helping mentor middle school students through Friday Night Live Mentoring that allowed me to become a role model for kids once again. It was really fulfilling to do both of these things because I knew that I was helping the mental health of my school and community directly. Beyond mental health, I also made an effort to serve my community through food drives, trash cleanups, and local town events. In Interact Club, I was able to extend our Trick or Treat for Cans food drive out to my town of Mokelumne Hill, allowing me to get around 15 extra bags of food to donate to the food bank. Moreover, I have helped Foothill Conservancy and Mokelumne Hill Fire Association with trash cleanups along the highway through town and I have helped my

parents with events in town since they own a local candy shop known as Whoopsie Daisy. All of this is to say that I believe companionship and compassion for one's area are supremely important for citizens of every community. Helpfulness is, after all, the first step in building a better community.

Similarly, I have found that a community can become disheartened if there aren't any plans for how it will stay healthy as well. Something I noticed while being in my community was that energy was a big issue that has been at the heart of news as of late. This problem has extended to the nation as well, so to combat this, I am hoping to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering in order to help solve some issues with energy. I would like to work on clean energy and hopefully make it a lot more accessible to my small town and Calaveras County as a whole, because I believe that is the future.

No matter what, a community is dependent on the residents within it. As such, I hope to continue to be an active participant in it and hope to help it out no matter where I am or where I go in life. To make my community one that I would enjoy, I'm going to be passionate and genuine about my work, so then people may be happy where they are.