

Nature is important to me because it is a part of who I am. I grew up with nature all around me. I have learned how to appreciate every season the sights of it, the sounds, the smells and what it feels like.

Summer is my favorite season. I love the warmth and being able to have my skin absorb the warmth of the sun. This season is comforting to me, I spend most of my summer outside. I play football for Berkshire Junior High school and conditioning starts in the summer. One of the reasons that I like football is because it's outside sometimes we practice in rain, hail, and in intense heat. It doesn't matter to me what the sky is doing; I'm just glad to be outside with my teammates who love being outside and the sport just as much as me.

Another thing I participate in during the summer is Outdoor Challenge. I spend one week outside camping, jumping off waterfalls and spending my time exploring the wilderness. I go to sleep with the noises of crickets, tree frogs, and the crackle of the campfire in the darkness of the night. I wake up to the sounds of morning birds, doves and get to cook and eat my breakfast around the fire that I built with my own hands from wood I gathered. I have learned how to survive in nature it's my favorite part of the summer. I also love watching the waterfall and the water hitting the rocks at the camp. It's the most beautiful thing I have ever seen.

During the fall I finish out my football season. The weather changes, there is a coolness to the air and I can feel the ground under my feet changing.

Animals around me start gathering and storing food for the winter. The produce in our garden decreases and we get ready for winter too by splitting wood and storing food from our garden. The corn in our corn field gets harvested and it kicks out the deer and raccoons that used to eat it everyday. The smells change, the leaves change, all of the colors around me change and I know then it's time to get ready for winter. The hours of the day become less and the hours of the night become more.

During the winter there is a decrease in temperature that no other season has. The coldness in the air burns my skin and my bones quiver. There is a quietness in the wilderness, the animals are burrowed deep in holes and dens and trees sleeping. The only sounds I hear are the crunching and sinking of my own feet against the snow. It seems to be more open in the winter I can stand on my back porch and see through the backyard, through the trees, through the acres of dead crops miles away. There isn't much about the sky, it's mostly grey. There are times when the sun hits the snow and it's sparkles like broken glass.

Springtime is when everything comes to life. New leaves, new grass, new baby animals, new flowers. It's also the wettest season, moss of all kinds grows on the ground and navigates up the trees. It's time to till the soil and plow the fields. I like planting the garden because it produces food and it's the best kind of food it's natural. It feels good to be able to work with my hands.

I don't know what my life would be like without nature. I think it would be constricting. I

wouldn't have the full experience of life without nature.