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Born in Oregon and Grown in Guanajuato: Traveling is a Way of Life

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Born in Oregon and Grown in Guanajuato: Traveling is a Way of Life

By Diego Santos

I am Diego Santos, and I'm 17 years old. I was born in Oregon, but when I was one year old we moved back to Mexico because my father had to resolve some issues with my grandfather, who lived in Guanajuato, Mexico.

I grew up in Guanajuato, Mexico until I was 15 years old alongside my older brother, Daniel, my sister, Angeles and my younger brother, Alexis. Living through hard and happy experiences made us unite as a family. In Guanajuato, Mexico we had 16 acres of land where my father planted corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa, and barley and I helped him take care of the plants by watering, and weeding them, I had to water them at 2:30 pm, each irrigation took 6-7 hours to be able to move on to the next irrigation and this was assisting him continuously every day for 5-6 months until we harvested and went to the next planting. I also helped harvest corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa, and barley.

My older brother, Daniel who at the time was 18 decided to come to the United States to earn more money for his family, because he already had a wife and a son. After seven years, Daniel decided to help us move to the United States so that we could have more opportunities, learn English and have a better education. As the years went by I began to look at life and people from a different perspective. As human beings we begin to think about our purpose in life. Friendships also undergo changes. Before I used to look at my brother as a person whom I admired. I wanted to learn everything from him. But once I got here I got to see another side of him. I know that he is the same person but like other people he wants to remain the same and is resistant to new ideas or perspectives. He can criticize other people but no one can criticize him. I think we all need to change. We should all be open to change. I am super open to change and new ideas. I still love him because he is my brother.

My brother missed us a lot and wanted to see us even though he would come to see us every two years for a month. But this was not enough time to spend together. I was happy to move to the United States with my mother, sister, and brother. I also loved to see my brother and his family. We talked about our lives when he was not with us, what our life was like in Mexico and the well-being of my

grandparents. But I was also sad because my father was not able to come with us, he stayed in Mexico to take care of the crops that help to sustain our family.

I have been here in the United States for three years. When I arrived for the first time I met a person who over time became my friend, we talked about the things we had to face when coming to the United States, we had fun in and out of school experiencing new and fun things that would make us become best friends and we spent good times together. I like the United States a lot and I want to live here but I also want to travel the world and discover new places, I want to visit Japan and eat the delicious ramen they make and go to anime and video game conventions made by Japanese.

Although I am having fun living here I still have a responsibility to go back to Mexico to visit my father. Being away from my father makes it difficult, so traveling back and forth will be a way of life for me.