

My Autobiography
By Benjamin Silva

Hello! my name is Benjamin Silva. I was adopted when I was small.

Unfortunately, my family made very poor choices that has affected my life, but I have not allowed it to continue.

I dislike bringing up my past when I was small only because it evokes negative memories. I don't recall doing much as I was growing up and did not attend any grade schools. My situation at that time would not allow me to participate in grade school. As an adopted child I went straight to high school. During high school my past time was playing video games, drinking, and using drugs at a young age. It was not good and I didn't know any better. All I wanted to do is go to school because something told me I could benefit from going to school as I have always felt smart. Something was telling me I was right.

When I finally went to high school, for once in my life, I felt normal. All I wanted was to have a chance to go to school. That's where I met my fiancé and I successfully became a straight "A" student and was just so happy to have that special gift. I felt so thankful because not many kids get to study so I was proud of doing well in school. I helped other students a lot and was instrumental in motivating them to do better.

How I came to know about the CCC was that I was at the GAP looking for a job. I had given myself two months to get a job or join the CCC like my cousin did years ago. He inspired me by mentoring the challenges and the chances one gets while at the CCC, the travel, the job, fire season response, so I did it and joined the CCC.

I currently have approximately nine months in the California Conservation Corps from when I started. At that time, I had no vision in my life, no goals, and I only needed to be employed. I couldn't focus then. As my time went on, I started having so much interest in what I was doing on the job. I ended up loving the hard work. It inspired me to learn to value life and its difficult moments. Going to school has just been amazing. I am so amazed at myself at learning how to develop social skills I never had. Most important, I learned to develop many work skills. I have developed a rapport with fellow staff members and have been impacted by my relationship and camaraderie with fellow corps members. My desire during this time has been to grow and become a better person the CCC has allowed me to be.

And, I don't think I'm finished yet because I'm proud to say that as my time went on, I started to get recognition for my behavior, and work ethics. I willingly volunteered to assist my school classmates in their learning needs. I have been very helpful with staff members. I have even helped out with the new arrivals at COMET. Being at the CCC has made me a changed person.

I was selected to participate as an Intern for my Center at CalTrans and represent the CCC. I feel strong and very proud for what we represent and stand for, our mission, work ethic, positive attitude, and our appearance. I advocate and support all CCC rules, and guidelines, and haven't failed to represent the CCC.

Now! I am scheduled to get a full time job at CalTrans and I will become a leader and lead my own crew proudly. My sincere hope is to graduate from college as an engineer. After all this work, from here its a blank page. Until next time, sincerely Benjamin Silva