

## HARVEST: MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The first year I went on harvest, I was only a few months old. I have not missed a year since. I look forward to it every year now, because of the places we go and the new people we meet. I have seen good things and some very bad things on harvest. These experiences have helped humble me and form my character.

When I was young, I did not like harvest too much because I could not be with my friends during the summer. They all would tell me how great their summer was, while I was stuck in a pickup moving it from field to field every day. Once I started driving combine full time, that all changed. The summer of my seventh grade year, I began working full time for my dad. I was very happy to be so involved with harvest.

When I turned 16, I got my CDL to drive tandem trucks. Now, I help train the crew for their CDL and whatever they should expect throughout the harvest season. I help and teach the crew how to do daily tasks such as greasing vehicles, changing oil, cleaning windows, and maintaining a decently clean environment inside the vehicles. My character has formed around a lot of the things I have learned on harvest. Without harvest, I would be an entirely different person.

I plan to attend the University of Kansas and achieve a master's degree in architecture. I have a strong passion for drafting and creating designs on the computer. Harvest will always mean a lot to me. Especially all of the people I have met through my dad and the annual convention. Everyone is so nice and friendly and just unlike any other group of people I know.

There will never be something that has a bigger impact on me than harvest. It truly is where I grew up. Harvest will always hold a place in my life and I will visit it often. I am an active person, and I think in the way of fixing and improving things to make them work better, because of what I have learned during the summer season. One thing I will miss the most, is the people. Almost every harvester knows me and will talk to me as if I am part of their family.

