

Essay – Tell us something that we would not otherwise know from reading your application. This essay should be no longer than 300 words.

I am most alive when I am running through the wilderness. I climb, crawl, sprint, dodge, and search, trying to find the trail. I have run in forests, deserts, high mountains, beaches, and some of the deepest jungle I can imagine. I have run in America, Europe, Russia, Asia, and Mexico. Finding the trail and getting to the end is how I see my life. There are paths, but sometimes you have to grab a machete and dive into the underbrush. There are wrong turns and sometimes you take them; but then you back-track until you find the way. Sometimes there is only one path up a steep cliff line, but generally there are many viable options if you have the courage to leave the pack and try one. The people with you are leaders or followers, and they sometimes lead you the wrong way. The most beautiful vistas and incredible scenes in the world cannot be seen from any road, overlook, or tourist destination. Why drive to see a waterfall, when you can crawl up the river, through the waterfall, and look down upon it as a conqueror.

When I am on trail, I am at peace with all around me, and I forget all the problems of my life to put one foot in front of the other. Eventually, I realize that the joy of running is not in the destination, but in the journey. Every little ending I reach is just a pause before I continue down trail. I am searching for wisdom, peace, and a little kernel of truth in an uncertain world. This search will always push me up the next mountain.