

*PEDRO A GARCIA*  
*7<sup>TH</sup> Grade @ Washington Middle School Pasadena*

[REDACTED]

*My son was getting out of my hands. He was constantly disrespecting me. Then he disrespected other adults. Friends, family and school authorities like his teachers and school personnel. When he started the program he was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Longfellow Elementary. His teacher was a very sweet teacher who did not call the parents unless she really could not handle the student. My son was throwing objects in class and making loud sounds, constantly disrupting the class. On various occasions he was sent to sit in another class. He was given in house-suspension. He met with the discipline authority in class. Nothing seemed to work. He had consequences at home. My husband ( his step-dad) and I talked to him constantly but he was getting worse and worse. At home he was worse. He was constantly fighting with his siblings ( 2 sisters) and yelling around the house. He did not do his chores; he did not have free time because his h.w. was never done in good time. He lied a lot. I did not know what to do any more. So the weekend before his birthday, he went to the field with Searge and his bootcamp crew. It rained all weekend, so he had it bad out in the mountains at Camp Trask. The night my son returned, with tears in his eyes, he told me, " Mom this is the best gift you could have given me."*

*Throughout the course of the year he has changed. I don't know if it's because he is maturing, because I show him more respect, because of what he is learning in CIIA or a combination of both. I see that my son behaves better at school. I don not receive as many phone calls from school. He does his h.w. more. In the beginning of the school year he was on top of things. His teachers considered him one of their best students. I got good reports from school and after- school. My son seems to have more confidence in him-self and has a better self-esteem. He makes more friends easily. He still has his ups and downs, but don't we all? He is involved with the LEARN's program and a student Ambassadors program. He plays on sports teams; he is even*