My Stay at the Selma Honda Dealership

On April 16th, 2016, I took a trip down to a Honda dealership located in Selma for my Senior Project Job Shadow. For that day I job shadowed Jorge Hernandez who is one of the many automotive technicians who works there. Even though Selma is a bit out there in terms of distance, I chose this location because the facility is pretty amazing and I’m looking to enter this line of work. While there I was able to see everything from the car lot to the actual workshop where people bring in their cars for diagnosing.

When I arrived, if someone were to say I looked nervous, that would be the understatement of the century. I met up with Jorge in the main office of the dealership and even though he sounded friendly through the phone I didn’t know if he would be friendly in person or if he was a person that was strictly by the books. Thankfully he noticed my hesitation and tried to make the experience as normal and comfortable as possible which worked in calming my nerves.

After we got the introductions out of the way we made our way to the shop in which all the automotive technicians call their “office”. As he showed me around the facility I would occasionally ask him a random question about the things I saw or what he specifically did. Most of the workers didn’t pay me attention due to them being absorbed in their work but some did throw pleasantries my way and I would ask them a few questions. Eventually he lead me to his work station and showed me all the equipment that he uses on a daily basis. Most of it I had no idea what it did but I was thankful that he gave me a quick summary of what each tool does. He even gave me a few demonstrations of how to use them. Overall the shop had a friendly but professional atmosphere.

At this point he pulled up two chairs and we began our interview. The way he answered questions was great because he answered them quick and to the point which made it easier for me to write down his responses and if necessary I would ask him to clarify some things. As we kept talking my nervousness was practically gone and the rest of the interview went on as smooth as could be. I was surprised when he mentioned that he used to serve in the U.S. Army and was even more surprised when he told me that’s where he got his training from. I’m glad I was able to talk to him because he further increased my desire to go into this line of work.

I really liked the dealership and it’s hands on aspect of working as an automotive technician. I love to work with my hands and I don’t think I’d be able to sit at a desk and file paperwork so I really feel like this or something similar is my calling. I learned that even though the job does seem a bit monotonous, it’s something I could see myself doing as a career.

At the end of the day I am still interested in this line of work. I would like to go to a college or university but the reality is that it most likely won’t happen so I have to keep my eyes open and take advantage of the opportunities I have right now. By the looks of it I won’t even have to go to college, I can just go to a technical school and get the training I need! Or the military and possibly get the chance to see new places as well.