

Melissa Vaughn

White Salmon, WA

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Education

University of Washington || Full-stack Web Development Certificate

Virginia Tech || BS in Biology

Virginia Commonwealth University || BA in Graphic Design

Experience

Special Education Substitute Teacher || White Salmon Valley School District

White Salmon, WA September 2022 - PRESENT

- Collaborated with faculty to implement a behavioral management plan to better counsel students on self-regulation and de-escalation techniques to improve social integration by creating a positive and supportive learning environment.

Fisheries Observer || Alaskan Observer

Astoria, OR March 2020 - August 2022

- Managed and prioritized projects with the vessel team while at sea for 7-9 days by increasing the efficiency of data collection and optimization of the workflow.
- Independently managed the workload by developing organizational systems through routine interval evaluations of data and discard.
- Coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisherman, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and NOAA by consolidating and organizing the data through report submittals for each trip.

Surveying Technician || Turner Land Surveying

Asheville, NC September 2019 - February 2020

- Assisted the licensed surveyor in collecting data for maps of streams and wetlands used in mitigation projects.
- Operated the instrument to perform different survey types including topographical, stakeout, boundary, and volume quantity.

Leadership Experience

Whitewater Kayak Instructor & Trip Leader

Brevard College Brevard, NC October 2019

Nantahala Outdoor Center Bryson City, NC May - October 2019

RVA Paddlesports Richmond, VA June 2017 - November 2018

- Assisted students in achieving their personal goals and conquering fears related to the sport.
- Planned logistics and executed beginner to intermediate programs on class II/III whitewater.
- Worked in a team environment with other instructors for large programs such as week-long kids camps.
- Maintained a calm demeanor and clear communication in stressful situations to facilitate guests' comfort.

Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate Researcher & Laboratory Technician

Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center Virginia Tech October 2015 - June 2017

- Pioneered research to improve lab techniques involving monitoring water quality, coaquaculture system, and refining data collection to enhance the survival and growth of freshwater mussel species.
- Assisted in captive propagation and culture of federally endangered species listed and non-listed species for release into native streams.
- Performed captive care techniques for host fish and juvenile mussels including counting and measuring mussels using a dissecting microscope, water quality monitoring, and constructing and maintaining aquaculture systems.

Community Service

Water Quality Analyst || Environmental Quality Institute

Asheville, NC June - August 2015

- Analyzed surface water samples for total suspended solids and alkalinity.
- Handled sampling of benthic macroinvertebrate communities in western North Carolina streams.

Project Volunteer || Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission

Roanoke, VA January - May 2014

- Performed research and planned river access points for the Roanoke river blue way project.
- Conducted stakeholder interviews to understand better river access and usage between a variety of interest groups.