Dear TJ’s Team,

I was extremely excited to come across a job listing for an open “Mate” position with your Santa Cruz team. I feel readily experienced, and the downtown Santa Cruz location is Ideal.

This past December I graduated from University of California, Santa Cruz with a bachelor’s degree in Network and Digital Technology. Furthermore, I have been working in the service industry for over six years now and quickly graduated to management positions for each company I have worked for.

My first job, during my senior year of high school, began as an ice-cream server. After just a few months, I was opening and closing - trusted with a key - and monitoring more senior employees during shifts. It was a valuable experience in which I worked a cash register, stocked shelves, took inventory, interacted with customers and managed workers, as well as gaining the lifelong skill of perfectly scooping a 5oz serving.

That same summer, while continuing at Silbermann’s Ice Cream, I began as a pool attendant for the Terra Linda Community Center pool. As a pool attendant I had already been administering daily training for lifeguards (atypical) and had the responsibility of monitoring and charging the influx of patrons. The next summer, right after passing my lifeguard training I was immediately promoted to “Aquatic Specialist (AKA “Senior guard”),” which I had never heard of happening before. By far my most rewarding job has been my current position with Rodoni Farms

For the last three years I have managed booths at Farmer’s markets around the Santa Cruz area, selling produce for Rodoni Farms. While taking full class loads during the week I fell in love with the farmer’s market environment on the weekends. The similarity in climate of markets to what I find whenever I visit a TJ is the true appeal of this position. The friendliness of TJ’s workers consistently draws me back, I think much like how I have regular shopper’s coming out to support our farm during the stormiest of markets. In fact, I would have to say that the high quality of service I receive from TJ’s is legitimately my favorite TJ’s product. I think that’s saying a lot considering the salmon jerky you guys stock your shelves with.

My favorite classes all involved group projects in which I could practice my management skills. While I attained a technical degree, my undergraduate experience essentially emphasized the importance for me to start a career in a positive group environment, working towards a common goal. In just four weeks, in an “Intro to Software Engineering” course, my group of 5 was able to develop an Android application. With no prior experience using Android Studio, we created a fully functioning “Getting Things Done” app based on the ideology of David Allen, exemplifying two qualities I pride myself on: the ability to learn quickly and communicate well with groups.

I believe these experiences have perfectly tailored me to work for Trader Joes. Furthermore, the opportunity to work for my favorite store seriously excites me. In my countless shops at TJ’s I cannot think of a negative experience I’ve had there. Also, my farmers’ market experience has engrained in me how much I love helping customers: seeing the smile on their faces as they leave with beautiful organic produce after a rewarding shopping experience. Really that is what entices me to join the TJ’s team. You guys make the shopping experience so much more than just buying produce. I greatly look forward to hearing from you

Best,

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