

Kim Laizer, Mentor Teacher
Yosemite Institute
P.O. Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389

Matthew McArdle
6144 Fieldcrest Dr.
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Miss Laizer

I am writing to make myself available for the position of Field Science Educator at the Yosemite Institute. I recently found out about your program while researching Environmental Education programs and noticed that you are accepting applications on a rolling basis for positions opening up for the 2011-2012 school year. I really admire the philosophy of the school and would be interested in starting a career at Nature Bridge so I can educate our youth on the importance of wild lands and different ecosystems.

I was drawn to Nature Bridge because of the commitment and dedication to giving students personal experiences to go along with what they are learning about our natural environment. I believe that there is no better way to learn about how ecological processes take place than to view them first hand. Instilling in children a love and respect for nature is one of the most important gifts we can give them and doing so in such a great environment as Yosemite National Park would be an honor.

I would be a perfect fit for this position. I possess a great love for the outdoors and am currently finishing up my degree in Environmental Education and Parks Management at the University of Maryland. I have taken several different ecology courses, and have done research and written a scientific report on the virtually undocumented ecosystem of vertical wetlands. I have also taken courses in geology, geography, the philosophy of the environment, developing youth programs, environmental politics, risk management, and wildlife management. In addition to all of these scholastic courses I have also taken the Winter Outdoor Educator course offered by NOLS, which was 16 days of backcountry ski touring and developing our outdoor education skills as teachers. This course really helped strengthen my skills for teaching groups about winter ecology in mountainous environments and I feel very comfortable leading groups into the backcountry now, no matter the conditions thanks to the level 1 avalanche certification I received and the intensive work we did on risk management practices.

I also have six years of work experience(full-time in Summer, part-time the rest of the year) in the outdoor field guiding groups of people from elementary school aged children, to adults on hikes where I give lessons on the geology and ecology of the area we are in. The groups I have worked with vary in all types of backgrounds, including children in Social Services programs with a number of social and mental handicaps and adults working for the NPS who are looking for a fun day off. I look forward to the possibility of working with the groups of students that visit the Yosemite Institute and being able to instill upon them not only a love for the outdoors but a sense of responsibility to take care of our natural environment.

I am an avid backpacker and climber as well. I have been on innumerable hiking, backpacking, and climbing trips up to a week long both by myself and while leading groups. My trips have ranged in environments from the coastal plains of the Maryland shore to the rugged backcountry of the Teton Range, where I was a backcountry permits ranger for four months. I have hiked, climbed and camped in all sorts of conditions, ranging from hurricane rain and winds, hail storms and various snow conditions and I have always been able to keep myself and my group in a positive attitude.

I hope you seriously consider me for the position of a Field Science Educator at the Yosemite Institute because I am very excited about the possibility of working with you. You can feel free to email me or call my cell phone any day of the week if you have any questions about my experience or qualifications. My email address is mcardlem728@gmail.com and my cell phone number is 301-606-7697. I look forward to hearing from you and I will be contacting your office within the next week to make sure you received my resume.

Sincerely,

Matt McArdle