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Kristina Rylands
Yosemite Institute
P.O. Box 487
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Dear Kristina;

This letter is a formal request for consideration as a field educator for Yosemite Institute. After reading about Yosemite Institute and the design of the program, I was inspired. It offers students the opportunity to experience what I learned in all my years of exposure to wilderness. Travel has been instrumental in developing who I am and the chance to help others is vastly intriguing.

I have lived and traveled extensively around the world; fortunately, the one place I find comfort and perspective is ubiquitous: the outdoors. The past year I experimented with independent journeys. The culmination of the year was a six-week solo trip to Argentina and Chile. I developed Spanish language skills, planning and coordination skills, map reading and itinerary skills, but most importantly I proved to myself that I was competent and able to persevere even when times were challenging. The highlight of the trip was summiting Torres pinnacles and taking in the view after moving in silence for four days alone in a National Park. Mountain passes, roaring rivers, and steep traverses were humbling, but I walked away feeling empowered. This experience has reinforced the importance of responsibility and personal accountability.

Over the summer months I was an assistant instructor for Outward Bound. This entailed teaching students about integrity, excellence, compassion, and inclusion and diversity. Each lesson focused on application of these values and transference from the field to home life. It was arduous, but incredibly rewarding. I continue to grow and expand my styles of connecting with students and find solace in their willingness to experiment in the wilderness.

I am extremely adventurous, gregarious, and creative which helps in adapting to methods of communication. I am also highly motivated and enjoy working with individuals and facilitating relationships. Please see the next page for references that can speak to my ability. Please consider me in your fall applicants.

Sincerely,

Erin McCleary