

Sarah Marie Elliott

960 Stratford Street, Pismo Beach, Ca 93449
508-332-2367 • s13elliott@gmail.com



March 12, 2011

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

Dear Kim Laizer,

In Henry David Thoreau's words, "Shall I not have intelligence with the earth? Am I not partly leaves and vegetable mould myself," he illustrates my deep love for the earth. It is this passion along with my ability to be an enthusiastic leader and inspire children to become knowledgeable about the world around them that evokes me to seek out a position as a Field Educator with Yosemite Institute.

Through my graduate work at Antioch University in the Science Teacher Certification Program, I have uncovered the essence of my environmental education philosophy, which lies rooted in the fact that "all education is environmental education" as David Orr so wisely states. Understanding more about ourselves, our surroundings, and the causes and effects that bridge the two through inquiry based learning is what I provide when working with children. I believe using the natural environment fosters self-driven inquiry and the wonder of how and why things work.

My study at Antioch has also enhanced my background as a naturalist through active explorations of New England's landscape. Taking field classes such as Wetlands Ecology, Ecological Dynamics of Landscapes, Coastal Geo-ecology and Ecosystems of Mt. Desert Island allowed me to explore creating curriculum that I implemented in the school classroom. Spending time developing and offering the skills and knowledge that I have obtained while working in Yosemite Valley gives me the chance to lie my roots once again in my native land of the Sierra Nevadas.

I am confident that you will find my experiences working with children in the science classroom excellent preparation for working in the wilderness of Yosemite valley. I appreciate your time in considering me for this position. Please contact me if you require any further information and/or wish to schedule an interview.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Elliott



"A child is in his natural setting amidst the flowers and the songbirds. There he may more easily express the hidden wealth of his individual endowment. True education is not pumped and crammed in from outward sources, but aids in