

February 24, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

With a passion for teaching science, a desire to live and work in the wilderness, and a commitment to lifelong learning, working at Nature Bridge at the Yosemite Institute would be a dream job for me. I will complete a joint M.S. in Environmental Studies and Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to respond to the Field Educator post. I learned about Nature Bridge from friends that greatly enjoyed their experiences at the Olympic Park Institute; I believe my friend Nathan Speckman also worked at Yosemite for a month or two after the OPI season ended. I know that I have a lot to offer your program and hope that you are able to consider my application for Fall 2011-2012 openings.

As a trained scientist, I have the scientific literacy skills required to explain concepts with students. I have immersed myself in the study of phosphorus and phosphorus loss from agroecosystems for my thesis research. My research experiences and interests, however, are far broader in scope. For example, later this month I will present a seminar to the Soil Science Dept. entitled "Wisconsin Soils: Stories of Change," narrating the evolution of soil in Wisconsin since the most recent glaciation twelve thousand years ago and predicting what our best climate change projections foretell for Wisconsin's plant and soil communities. While the pursuit of scientific knowledge satisfies an intellectual itch, it is the act of teaching that truly sustains my soul.

I am an experienced and enthusiastic environmental educator. I have lived and breathed environmental education and discovered that I am most fully alive when combining my passions for teaching and learning about the natural world. I was equipped with the tools to open people up to the wonders of the world around them during my student naturalist year at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Since Wolf Ridge, I have honed my skills professionally in West Virginia and Tennessee, through volunteer work in Madison, and on hikes with friends and family throughout the country.

If given the opportunity to join the staff at Nature Bridge, I would infuse the community with positive energy. I would apply myself to enrich the programming and what I offer to the students. I would greatly appreciate a chance to discuss further the Field Educator position. I am attaching my resume, references, and a completed application form. To highlight my creativity and desire to incorporate multiple learning styles into my teaching, I am also sending a link to a soil biology song I wrote to the tune of an old Bob Dylan song. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Allison Madison

Soil Biology Song: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBuETFOu8mA>