*Noah D. Beck*

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To whom it may concern;

I am enthusiastically applying for the position of field science educator at the Olympic Park Institute. As I read through the *Nature Bridge* website I became energized about the organization’s mission and the prospect of being able to work for such an extraordinary institute. I too am looking to foster meaningful connections between people and their environment through environmental education and positive exposure to nature. I believe that this personal connection to nature has fantastic benefits to physical, mental and spiritual health along with the ecological health of our surroundings. My academic, professional and personal pursuits have prepared me well for just such a mission.

I have had a number of diverse experiences in ecological research and environmental education. Currently I am finishing my master’s degree in Environmental Interpretation. This program has afforded me the opportunity to study under experts in various fields of ecology, sharpen my skills as a naturalist and provided me with invaluable experience and training as an educator. While working towards my master’s degree I also worked at a local nature center as the assistant director of its summer nature camps. These camps strongly focused on experiential learning in nature. Prior to this program I was employed as an ecological research assistant working in places like the Hudson River of New York, the southern, central and northern California coast and the southern Colorado River. I learned a great deal about a range of ecosystems and research processes but I felt strongly that there was a better way for me to help protect and restore our environment. This feeling lead me to pursue a career in environmental education.

My hobbies and interests involve exploring and learning about nature which makes my professional life seem like play. I often find myself exploring by foot, bicycle or boat. One of my more notable explorations was a 340 mile kayak trip from upstate New York to the Chesapeake Bay by way of the beautiful Susquehanna River. Although I have a wide variety of interests in the nature I am most likely to found being fascinated by flora. Particularly, I am captivated by the study of ethno-botany, the historical and cultural use of plants.

I am thrilled to have discovered Nature Bridge and I hope that we can pursue a relationship further. The position of field science educator is one that I highly covet. My interests and experiences seem to match up well with the goals of your organization and I hope that I am able to make a positive contribution at the Olympic Park Institute. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Noah D. Beck