20 September 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great anticipation that I am applying for field educator position posted on Yosemite Institute’s website. My education and experience make me an excellent candidate for this position and I look forward to any opportunity to learn more and gain additional experience by participating in the program Yosemite Institute has to offer.

While enrolled in college, I worked as a teaching assistant for 3 classes: (1) Natural Resources & The Environment, (2) Western Civilization and the Environment, and (3) Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy. These classes required that I attend every lecture and laboratory session, take notes, design exam questions, hold review sessions and office hours for students with questions, grade exams and occasionally lecture about a particular assigned topic. This gave me great experience working one on one with students and I couldn’t wait to get into my own classroom.

What I consider my first “real” experience teaching occurred in New York State while I was student teaching for Syracuse University during the years of 2007-2010. I experienced a variety of different educational settings, for example: inner-city, rural, public, private, middle school, high school, etc. I taught Biology, Environmental Geoscience, and Literacy. I thoroughly enjoyed working within all different types of schools and with all different types of students; however, I found it difficult to teach about the environment within the confines of a classroom, so I decided to get experience teaching in an outdoor setting.

The first summer after college graduation (2010), I worked as an environmental educator for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Here, I worked and lived with a group of approximately 75 students each week for 8 weeks. I designed and implemented lessons on Forest Ecology, Field Ecology, Stream and Pond Ecology, Human Impact, and Energy. Each “discovery group” was made up of 15 students that cycled through a rotation every few hours. I was in charge of waking my students up, feeding them, ensuring their safety, ensure their understanding of the curriculum, and even put them to sleep at night with a story, song, or game. This was the first time in my professional career that I felt I had answered my calling.

The following year, I traveled to New Mexico where I currently work as a seasonal park ranger at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. I lead caving adventure tours to visitors ranging in ages from 5-95 in groups of 5-60. In addition, I have gained experience opening and closing a visitor center, cleaning facilities, presenting power point programs and overall, interacting with visitors on a daily basis. I absolutely love my job and am very excited to gain more experience in a field I have such immense passion for.

I hope that the above information has given insight to my past work experience and with the attached resume, I hope you learn a bit about my personal character, work ethic and morale. Thank you for your time and consideration. I will contact you in one week to discuss my candidacy and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Lydia R. Faller