William L. Huntington

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Yosemite Institute,

As a product of an outdoor, experiential education program I cherish the benefits of living and learning in nature’s classroom. I admire the mission and values of Yosemite Institute and feel that they strongly correlate with my educational philosophy and overall lifestyle. I am a strong proponent of field-based education and am committed to challenging students who are willing to take risks in order to become better critical thinkers and ecological citizens.

As an adventure guide in Moab, Utah I have had the pleasure of working and teaching in a beautiful yet fragile landscape. While river guiding is a service-based industry, I have taken many steps to integrate education into our guests’ experience. By sharing my knowledge of desert ecology and cultural history I am adding depth and value to the trips, which allows customers to gain a better understanding and respect for the places they visit. I enjoy working with many different age groups and populations, and am continually finding new and creative ways to make learning fun and exciting. Sometimes I teach through stories. Other times I lead groups on interpretive hikes while pretending to be an early explorer. I have adapted a number of activities in order to engage many different learning styles and abilities. My favorite part of guiding is the opportunity to practice my teaching skills in the field. I am always encouraged by the interest people take in learning when they are able to participate and immerse themselves in the environment. By creating a fun and interactive blueprint for my guests, I allow them to build their own experiences and long lasting memories.

I look forward to working with children of all ages and social backgrounds. I have worked with children of all age levels in many different settings. I have been a teacher, coach, and guide and enjoy the challenges that come along with each position. The fact that Yosemite Institute strives to give opportunities to students who may not have the economic means is noteworthy. I strive to make a difference in the lives of all the people I teach, but have found that underprivileged children are often the most willing to learn. After looking through Yosemite Institute’s core educational framework I can gladly say that my goals are in line what you are trying to accomplish.

I can vividly remember the moment in my junior year of college when I made the decision to take ownership in my life. Since then I have dedicated myself to learning from all my experiences and to be grateful for everything that comes into my life. I believe seeing the world is the best way to formulate our own worldview and nurture an appreciation for other people and cultures. I feel extremely fortunate for the journey I have taken and where it has led me. My passion is to share new experiences with others who are just as excited to learn as I am. I want to engage in discussions, challenge the norm, and help shape a generation of critical thinkers. I have found my calling and it is to teach.

One of the things I am most proud of is my ability to give my best effort. Winston Churchill once said, “Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence, is the key to unlocking our potential.” Whatever I am engaged in I always strive to reach my potential and beyond. I am constantly driven to better myself, to remain dynamic, and to not be satisfied by the words good enough. I would love the opportunity to help unlock the potential in others and I believe I can do so at Yosemite Institute.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to talking with you.

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