

Lydia M Vanderburg

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Environmental educator with six years of experience in hands-on science education, seeking to transition into classroom teaching in order to build long-term learning progressions. Known for passion for accessible science education, compassionate and effective communication through stressful situations, and mentoring of fellow staff.

EDUCATION

Willamette University, Salem, OR.

BA in Biology – GPA 3.88

Studied abroad Fall 2015, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

2013-2017

Awards: *Graduated cum laude, Biology departmental honors, Phi Beta Kappa (inducted as a Junior)*

Senior Thesis: *Illuminating drift differences: higher nighttime light levels reduce behavioral drift in stream invertebrates*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Environmental Science Educator and Site Manager, NatureBridge, Port Angeles, WA

2022 – Present

- Teaches science and social-emotional skills and manages outdoor safety for classroom groups of 4th-12th graders
- Creates science learning progressions, including forming research questions and collecting authentic data. Specialties include studies on forest population, water quality and aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Wrote new science curriculum on wildfires, and created a hands-on lake-depth transect as part of a glacial learning progression, both adopted into other educator's curriculum
- Coaches students to collect high-quality data for professional NOAA research on the Elwha River ecosystem
- Cultivates an inclusive learning environment through culturally-relevant content, inclusion of multiple perspectives including traditional ecological knowledge, and connections to each group's home communities
- Manages multiple schools on-site and coordinates with teachers to create the best experience for each school
- Continually develops teaching technique through field observations by supervisor, professional goal-setting, and regular professional development opportunities

Lead Instructor, Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Newry, ME

Summers 2022 – 2024

- Planned and instructed backpack, canoe, sea kayak and sailing expeditions for middle- and high-schoolers, with a focus on teaching self-reliance, self-regulation, leadership and communication skills
- Formally mentored less experienced staff, teaching decision-making processes to promote their development
- Trained returning staff on mentorship techniques, feedback skills and curriculum planning
- Collaborated with students to create actionable solutions to tricky behavioral challenges and peer conflicts
- Managed incidents of all kinds, including the school's first COVID-positive student group in the field
- Engaged in a strong culture of feedback, goal-setting and peer evaluation, including annual performance reviews

Naturalist, Naturalists At Large, Ventura, CA

2022

- Facilitated a wide range of science and team-building activities, adjusted to the specific ecology of the coast, redwood forests, or mountains
- Created a positive learning environment through proactive behavior management and clear expectations
- Designed a lesson on shorebird behavior which other staff adopted
- Highly varied programs demand self-reliant problem solving, flexibility and autonomous learning

Outdoor Educator/Trip Leader, Chewonki Foundation, Wiscasset, ME

2021

- Taught a place-based synthesis of Maine ecology, farming, and food systems to middle schoolers
- Stepped beyond my hired role by creating a suggested sea kayak training guide, inventorying and fixing sea kayaking equipment, and advocating for additional gear and training

Learning Pod Tutor, Grasslawn Microschool, Redmond, WA 2020 – 2021

- Managed in-person classroom for 3rd graders learning remotely, structuring days and streamlining communication
- Improved a neurodivergent student's engagement in school by building his social and organizational skills
- Researched and taught a progression of hands-on science activities to supplement in-person learning

Program Instructor, Berkshire Outdoor Center, Becket, MA 2020

- Instructed a wide variety of outdoor, teambuilding and investigative science activities for students aged 5 to 70+
- Designed winter day camp for 5-7 year-olds, building resilience and comfort in nature

Environmental Educator, YMCA Camp Orkila, Eastsound, WA 2018 – 2019

- Taught ecology, environmental science, teambuilding and personal challenge for 5th through 8th grade classes
- Designed and taught a science progression which culminating in students working in small groups to create and test their own research questions about forest or marine ecosystems

Expedition Instructor, YMCA Camp Orkila, Eastsound, WA Summers 2014 – 2019

- Co-led staff training trip, training other leaders in risk management, navigation, and paddle and rescue skills
- As a senior instructor, mentored peers on curriculum design, learning progressions, and behavior management

Leadership Manager for Outdoor Program, Willamette University, Salem, OR 2016 – 2017

- Responsible for hiring, training, and coaching 30+ student leaders of outdoor trips
- Wrote and delivered new curriculum on risk management and kayaking, overhauling leadership training structure
- Assisted leaders in problem-solving while on-call on weekends

Teaching Assistant, Willamette University, Salem, OR 2016 – 2017

- Assisted in laboratories for a Biology for Non-Majors class for two semesters

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Field Technician, Tikaboo Valley, NV – Department of Biology, Willamette University Apr – May 2018

- Full-time field work on Joshua Tree-pollinator co-evolution in a zone where two species hybridize
- Surveyed Joshua Tree forests, set flower cages, and captured and transplanted yucca moths

Thesis Research, Department of Biology, Willamette University 2017

- Designed experiment to test the effect of light pollution on behavioral drift by aquatic macroinvertebrates
- Collected light pollution and water quality data and sampled macros in daylight and at night
- Presented results and findings in written thesis and departmental presentation

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

STEAM Classroom Assistant, Barry Elementary, Chicopee, MA Feb – Mar 2024

- Volunteered two days per week in Title I public school
- Assisted STEAM teacher, coached and worked with students, and designed and taught a science lesson

Tutor, Chemawa Indian School, Salem, OR 2017

- Provided general academic tutoring for students at a federally-run boarding school for Native American youth

Certifications: Wilderness First Responder, Child and Adult CPR