

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202540_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MIT	Program Name:	MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Suzanne Pierce	Recommenders Title:	Staffing Coordinator
Recommenders Institution:	Hurricane Island Outward Bound School	Contact Name:	Lydia Vanderburg
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	08/29/2024 07:00 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000119486514	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radius
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Other Information

Created Time:	08/12/2024 01:24 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	08/29/2024 07:00 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



HURRICANE ISLAND OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

August 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Lydia Vanderburg. Lydia was hired as an assistant instructor for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School in the spring of 2022. Lydia came to HIOBS with significant experience both in leadership and environmental science. Due to her experience, in the Spring of 2023 Lydia was promoted to lead instructor in the areas of backpacking, canoeing and sea kayaking. I have worked with Lydia primarily as an administrative support person who has watched and documented her development since she was hired. Although I cannot vouch for Lydia's academic abilities, I can write about several qualities that make her a good Outward Bound instructor that I believe are relevant to any type of teaching: curriculum planning, ambition, student management, and her commitment to her students.

Outward Bound is a character development organization, whose mission is to help people discover and act upon their strengths. Through challenge and reflection, Outward Bound students gain self-confidence, a respect for the natural world, and concern for others. The instructor's role is to provide a learning environment that allows students to practice technical skills, first aid, and camp craft skills, learn to work effectively as members of a team, and reflect upon and learn from experience. During one- or two-week expeditions, students develop enough technical and leadership skills to assume responsibility for the last section of the expedition. The instructors' goal, then, is to train the students to function as a physically and emotionally safe group in the backcountry without the instructors.

Preparation for an Outward Bound course is an exercise in lesson planning. Two or three days before Outward Bound students arrive for their expeditions, instructors meet to design the course, create a strong working partnership, and make logistical preparations. Guided by a program coordinator, instructors review ways of establishing clear expectations for the course, recognizing when the course needs to be altered to accommodate different student needs and abilities, and methods of dealing with students whose behavior is inappropriate. Instructors address their own philosophies of directed versus experiential learning and reach compromises regarding the tone that they will present to the incoming student group. In her three years at Outward Bound, Lydia has gained extensive experience with such preparation, which will no doubt help her in her work in a graduate program and other teaching positions. Lydia has proven to be organized and able to set priorities, which allows her to impart a confident and polished impression to her students.

Lydia's energetic and inquisitive nature makes her a quick learner both in the field and on trainings. This Spring Lydia joined a sailing staff training having done very little sailing. She was able to absorb all the new skills while using many of her well-polished skills to make the training



HURRICANE ISLAND OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL

an impactful learning experience. As Lydia has gained experience in the field, she continues to ask questions, to observe others teaching topics and facilitating discussions, and to hone her leadership abilities. She assumes responsibility for her own development and consistently asks for critical feedback on her performance. Lydia's focus on her own growth and learning is exceptional, as is her ability to make improvements in specific areas.

Not only is Lydia able to present clear and concise lessons to her students, but she also communicates a genuine enthusiasm for the skills she is teaching and is adept at developing a great rapport with her students. Lydia is concerned with students as individuals and as a group, always striving to model the course on their best interests. Lydia grasps the concepts of Outward Bound's theoretical underpinnings and its emphasis on compassion, self-reliance, physical fitness, and craftsmanship. As she has developed, she has learned to design courses around these four "pillars," combining what she knows about human interaction with her commitment to achieving Outward Bound's mission and providing an experience that her students will never forget.

Lydia is a smart and strong woman who will be an asset to any school or organization. If you have further questions regarding Lydia, please feel free to contact me at my home 207-824-3905.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Newsom Pierce

Suzanne Newsom Pierce
Staffing Coordinator
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