

Noe Yoder

MIT Application Personal Statement

I have been working in Education roles since 2015, when I spent my gap year on an AmeriCorps project developing after school support for children in transitional housing. After graduating from Evergreen in 2021, I worked at various parks as an Interpretive Naturalist, developing ranger talks and other programs for families and folks of all ages to engage and connect better with nature. I moved back to my hometown of Spokane in 2023, and have worked as the Youth Education Lead at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture ever since. I develop and deliver field trips for K-12 classes and family programming in this role, and it has fostered in me a deep love of not only facilitating fun and memorable education experiences for students, but being a positive role model in kid's lives. I am interested in becoming a teacher to have the ability to develop long term positive influences on youth. Being a field trip educator is fun, but seeing thousands of students within a school year means I rarely develop meaningful connections with the students I work with. I believe that if I were able to foster a long term positive influence on kids, I could open them to learning that maybe they actually love science, or history, or art, and they just needed the right teacher to nurture that part of them.

My experience as an Interpretive Naturalist and Museum Educator has led me to develop an ability to competently teach a variety of subjects to all ages. I've led bog ecology walks, ranger programs on geology, volcanology, local natural history, and plant identification; and designed field trips and summer camp programs at my museum covering local history, art history, and studio art. My roles as an educator outside the classroom have led me to develop the ability to research and learn new subjects quickly, adapt complex material for audience level, and make learning fun and engaging for a wide variety of ages.

I Would like to teach Biology or Middle Level Science, as my degree is in Botany and I have credits in Cell Biology, Ecology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Soil Science as well as Botany. I know I do not have every credit necessary to become a middle school level science teacher or biology teacher, and I am happy to take supplementary undergraduate courses to make up for what I have not been able to learn at a job. However, my experience teaching history, art education, and science, as well as my personal love for reading, has led me to being confident in my ability to teach elementary education as well. I enjoy working with all grades and would be happy in either pathway.

I would like to be the adult in a student's life that gets them passionate about learning, or open them to something they never thought would be interesting to them. My professors at Evergreen Frederica Bowcutt and Martha Rosemeyer were the first educators to open my eyes to a deep personal love of science, and I want to be that educator for other students. Thank you for considering me for this program, and I hope to be accepted.