

Dear Dr. Jeff,

What you are about to read may not be much in the way of a recommendation; as a formalized resume it leaves much to be desired. Especially since the object of my persuasive text is one of the student intern positions at Taylor Ranch. (Certainly what I desire is the experience itself which can be used, at some later date, on a formal resume.)

My lack of qualifications such as "relevant coursework" speaks for itself. As you are aware I am still at ground level as far as my higher education is concerned. In fact, since I had to drop out of a calculus course last September when my father passed away my status when I begin at U of I will be as a freshman. Although I am deficient in the nuts and bolts scholarly aspects of wilderness research I believe that the enthusiasm I have for my chosen subject is compensating.

I am not without out-of-doors experience but, as you know, my wildlife biology background is weak. A fairly comprehensive list of semi-relevant accomplishments dating back to 1988 include: 21 day standard course at North Carolina Outward Bound (1988), 6 day Alumni Rock Climbing Clinic at NCOB (1989), Wilderness First Responder NASAR certification through Kurt Hahn Center in North Carolina (1990), I spent 9 days with you at the Taylor Ranch last July, and then went on to attend the Wolf / Grizzly Bear Workshop held on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation east of Glacier National Park.

After I left the workshop I got some hands on experience in radio tracking moose with a couple of graduate students from the University of Montana. I spent about 4 days with them and Mike Fairchild. Mike was coordinating the efforts of grad. students research projects studying wolves, moose, deer, and elk all under the direction of Dr. Rheam from the University.

Besides what I have already mentioned I have taken the following

trips: 9 day canoe trip Boundary Waters Wilderness into Canada (1988), 3 day canoe trip down the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park through Boquillas Canyon (1989), 4 day backpacking trip in Linville Gorge Wilderness Area in Pisgah National Forest North Carolina (1990), 5 day backpacking trip in Guadalupe Mountains National Park (1991), and a 7 day trip at Barranca Del Cobre and Batopilas Canyon in Mexico the state of Chihuahua (1991). I have excluded weekend and overnight trips.

Having spit all of that out and now scanning down this green flier I have come to the part that asks for me to summarize why I am interested in this position. Well, two reasons seem to have popped simultaneously into my oversized underutilized Texas noggin. First and least important after having reviewed my financial assets, it is obvious even to me with my limited cryptic financial savvy that any monies earned this summer would be helpful for the fall semester. However, second and most important is the experience itself and; believe me, after work- for an oil company for sixteen plus years with the past four being in a management position I know the value of experience. There really is no substitute for hands-on experiential training. But, do not mistake me. I certainly wish I had a transcript full of 4.0's in the biological sciences to be able to wave in front of your face - it just ain't so; not now, not yet. What I do have is a passion for the wilderness and for all of the plants and furry, fuzzy, feathered, scaly, grimy creatures which inhabit it. I also have this conviction that I want to contribute something to the general cause of wilderness, a healthy notion for a sick world.

So in summation (a crummy way to end any argument): I got da desire, I got da heart, so give me a shot at it Jeff!!!

Respectfully and cordially yours,

Aug Sallberg

P.S. Please show this to Jim and ask him if he'll be a reference. I'm counting on you as the second. All seriousness aside, I'm looking forward to seeing you both under any circumstances.

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