

Saturday, June 14, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Joshua York. As a former employee of his, I would like to share some things about Joshua that you should know.

Joshua was my primary supervisor during my time as an Education Assistant at Five Rivers MetroParks from January of 2009 to June of 2010. In the year and a half that I worked under Joshua, he taught me more about how to be an educator and an influential leader in the field of environmental education and conservation than I learned in any other position throughout the past 11 years in the field or in my academic work. Joshua is truly passionate about the work that he does in an effort to conserve and protect the natural world for future generations. He works hard in everything that he does to empower the human race to care for and cherish this precious home that we all share, Earth. When Joshua shares his knowledge and love for the natural world, it is impossible to walk away without having a sense of connection and responsibility to everything around us.

Joshua is also a skilled and passionate leader. He set aside countless hours out of his busy work schedule to teach me how to be a successful professional environmental educator. From tasks as simple as learning how to identify different species of plants and animals, to teaching the skills necessary to ensure that a group of people had the time of their life on an owl walk when they did not get to actually see or hear any owls, Joshua made sure that I was as prepared as I could be for anything that I would encounter throughout my career. He is a truly selfless and inspiring leader.

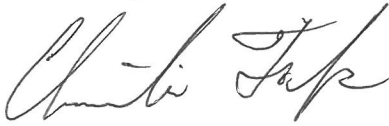
Since working for Five Rivers Metroparks, I have worked as a full-time Park Interpreter for Arkansas State Parks, a Museum Educator for the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Michigan and am now currently employed as a full-time Education Specialist for the Organization for Bat Conservation in Michigan. I am confident that without the training and leadership provided by Joshua, I would not have been as successful in this field as I have been. In the time since I worked for Joshua, I have received many letters and compliments from individuals and organizations about my passion and knowledge as an environmental educator. I attribute many of the comments I receive to the training I received from Joshua. In a letter one volunteer with Arkansas State Parks wrote for me as I was looking for employment in Michigan, she states that what sets me apart is my "ability to share knowledge with very diverse groups and engage all age ranges and experience levels". In a thank-you letter I received after doing a night hike for a Brownie troop, the troop leader stated "Not only is your knowledge base impressive, your enthusiasm for wildlife and wildlife education is really contagious". These are all qualities that Joshua instilled in me and helped me to grow. Furthermore, an indication of Joshua's openness and leadership in the 4 years since I worked alongside Joshua has included a collegial relationship with professional collaborations between our organizations that have proven mutually beneficial.

39221 Woodward Ave. P.O. Box 801 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 248.645.3232

email: info@batconservation.org website: batconservation.org

It has been a privilege and honor to work with Joshua. I am truly grateful for all of his efforts in preparing me for a career in environmental education. Joshua will be a great addition and leader to your team. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 513-305-9333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christina Funk".

Christina Funk, M.Env.
Education Specialist
Organization for Bat Conservation
513-305-9333
cfunk@batconservation.org

Nancy Deckard
28 Clervaux Drive
Little Rock, AR 72223

May 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Christina Funk. As an Arkansas Master Naturalist, I have had the pleasure to work with Christina many times over the past year as she served in her capacity as Park Interpreter for Pinnacle Mountain State Park. As I have come to expect from other park interpreters I have worked with, she is very knowledgeable. What sets her apart, however, is her ability to share that knowledge with very diverse groups and engage all age ranges and experience levels.

Before I retired, I spent many years in a large corporation, hiring, training, managing and developing others. It is apparent to me that Christina also exhibits other qualities one looks for in an employee. For example, she has a strong sense of responsibility to her job and her employer. In addition, she proactively seeks development from others. No matter how well one of her programs may go, she seeks suggestions for improvement.

I highly recommend Christina to you, even though I hate to see her go. PMSP is losing a wonderful interpreter.

If you would like to speak to me about my recommendation, please feel free to call me. Home phone: 501-868-6036 or cell phone: 214-325-4111.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy Deckard

Christina Funk

From: Ron Salley
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 4:39 PM
To: Christina Funk
Cc: Tony Perrin; Joshua Jeffers
Subject: FW: Thank you

Christina,

Well done!! Such excellent comments make us proud to be associated with up and coming professionals like you!

Ron

From: Gess, Jennifer L [mailto:GessJenniferL@uams.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 2:52 PM
To: Christina Funk; Joshua Jeffers; Ron Salley
Subject: FW: Thank you

Sorry you didn't get this message the first time around. Let me know if you receive this one.
Best,
Jennifer

From: Gess, Jennifer L
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 10:34 AM
To: 'Christina Funk'
Subject: Thank you

Christina-

I would like to thank you again for all of your help both in advance of and during our Brownie Camping Trip this weekend. We quite honestly could not have put this together without you, and your educational program was absolutely the highlight of our trip! You are a gifted teacher and have a really wonderful way with children (and adults!). Not only is your knowledge base impressive, your enthusiasm for wildlife and wildlife education is really contagious. You are also extremely patient and great at meeting each individual "where they are" in terms of their comfort level and knowledge base in the outdoors. I appreciate you taking so much time with us. The girls (and parents) continued to talk through the evening and during the day about our experience with you! We actually ran across a large snake (maybe a queen snake?) during our hike to clean one of the trails the next morning and I heard some of the girls echoing you while watching her in talking about how great it is to get to see animals in the wild and why we need to keep the woods clean and free of "people food" for them. I'm sure they'll take these experiences and your teaching with them every time they enter the woods.

Thanks again!
Jennifer Gess

Jennifer L. Gess, Ph.D., ABPP/CN
Director, UAMS Predoctoral Internship in Psychology
Assistant Professor, Clinical Neuropsychology
Department of Psychiatry
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences



330 N. Centre Street • Schoolcraft, MI 49087
(269) 679-5959 • schoolcraftlibrary.org

July 1, 2013

Organization for Bat Conservation
c/o Christina Funk
39221 Woodward Avenue
P.O. Box 801
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303

Christina,

I want to thank you so much for the wonderful program you brought to the Schoolcraft Community Library last week. Despite the small crowd, it was a BIG learning opportunity for everyone! You have a very natural way with kids and adults and your passion for what you do shines through making learning very easy and exciting.

You also did such a great job of reducing fears or dispelling myths about bats, as well as emphasizing the value of bats to our environment and the danger that the bat population faces right now with the 'White Nose Syndrome.'

It was very enlightening as well to see the different sizes of bats and I loved that you could demonstrate the echo location used by bats. What an awesome visual and audio.

Thank you again for the program and for sharing your knowledge, passion and expertise with us.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Truesdell
Director

May 1, 2013

The "BEL" Build, Explore, Learn
108 Hanover St.
Belding, MI 48809

Christina,

It was a pleasure meeting you and wanted you to know how much everyone enjoyed the bat program. You did a fabulous presentation and have a great rapport with the audience.

We participated in our Community Showcase and decorated our booth in a bat theme. We posted bat facts and signs encouraging people to "Help Save our Michigan Bats" and handed out about 50 plans for building a bat house. We have made a place in the Children's Museum to feature "Help Save our Michigan Bats"!

The people of Belding and the bats have both benefited greatly by inviting the Organization for Bat Conservation to visit our small community.

The Daily News did a wonderful article and I thought you would enjoy seeing it.

Thank you so much.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Y. Miller-Moran". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Joan" and last name "Miller-Moran" clearly distinguishable.

Joan Miller-Moran
Co-chair from the "BEL" Build, Explore, Learn