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To Whom It May Concern;

This is a personal recommendation for Joshua York, whom I have had the pleasure of having for my supervisor on two separate occasions while working for Five Rivers MetroParks. The first occasion was during my 2009 Apprenticeship during which he was responsible for my training as a naturalist. The second was as a part-time permanent Education Assistant from December 2010 through February 2012. Both experiences contributed to my success as a naturalist. Not only was Mr. York an excellent teacher and supervisor he was also extremely motivated and innovative.

Joshua is constantly coming up with new ways to engage the public and encourage them to spend time outdoors. Due to increases in program requests among local child care center, we were not able to meet their needs for an outdoor experience within the parks. Joshua developed a program that would give the teachers tools to take their own field trips. Child care providers interested in getting the tools had to go through a training program to ensure they were giving their classes a positive outdoor experience. Teachers now had the knowledge to lead their own outdoor programs and the combination to a large container holding creek nets, aerial nets, containers, and information on the park. Through the Natural Adventures Box program, more children are getting outdoors and more adults are becoming positive role models, fostering children's interactions with the outdoors.

In addition to training newcomers to the field, Joshua is extremely motivated to continue learning himself. I remember on more than one occasion he would come into work with information on the latest research pertaining to wildlife and ecology. It is extremely motivating to a student to see a teacher just as engaged as they are with the subject of study. Not only is Joshua motivated to continue to learn and change as the research and culture changes, he does it with enthusiasm and positivity.

Joshua has a wonderful gift for teaching people of all ages. Whether it is training for teachers to give their students an outdoor experience or a curriculum for a naturalist in training, Joshua York knows how to encourage people to do their very best. Through Joshua's naturalist training program and supervisory skills, I have succeeded in my dream of becoming a naturalist. I wish Joshua all the best with his future endeavors. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Sincerely,

Katherine F. Malcolm, Naturalist