



October 30th, 2014

Mr. James Shiflet
Job Interview CDE Superintendent
6060 FFA Dr.
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960

Dear Mr. Shiflet:

I recently read your advertisement online about the Intern Marine Biologist position available with Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This position sparked my interest, as I wish to pursue a career in the animal industry and have a passion for the field of Marine Biology. I am confident you will find my strong foundational knowledge of aquatic animals, work ethic, and leadership skills to be complimentary to the position you offer.

Maintaining a focus on agricultural classes, specifically in animal science, has helped me gain many of the skills essential to working in the animal industry. In order to enhance my agricultural education experience, I actively participate in the FFA. I am a Vice President for my local chapter, and I serve as President for the Eastern Region of Tennessee. As an FFA member, the National Veterinary Science Pilot and Tennessee State Agricultural Issues Forum have been two of the most valuable Career Development Events for my future. These competitions allowed me to better prepare for careers in animal science and increase my chances of success in the field. In 2011, I was certified as a licensed SCUBA diver and completed my first certified dive at a local lake. I have been able to travel to numerous countries to SCUBA dive and gain knowledge of marine life. I value each of these unique learning opportunities, and they have strengthened my resolve to be employed at your aquarium.

Based upon my level of experience and relentless work ethic, I believe I am ready to begin my career as an Intern Marine Biologist. After touring Ripley's multiple times, I have become even more interested in Marine Biology and working for you is the most logical first step I could take. Upon your assessment of my qualifications, I hope to set up an interview to discuss all I can offer and to learn more about this opportunity. Please feel free to contact me between the hours of 3PM and 9PM at  or any time at .

Thank you for your careful consideration of all my credentials. I will be anxiously awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,



Enclosure: Resume

Career Objective: To secure a position as an Intern Marine Biologist and gain valuable experience that will aid me in reaching my long-term goal of obtaining a career in the Animal Science Industry.

Qualified By: Knowledge and experience in the areas of diving and marine animal identification; accompanied by enthusiasm and a desire to learn about the various aspects of Marine Biology.

Work Experience:

- **March 2014 to Present** **Ripley's Aquarium, Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**
Complete behind-the-scenes tour of operations; educate guests at several exhibits; executing proper protocol required of an employee
- **March 2013 to Present** **Pals Sudden Service, Johnson City, Tennessee**
Prepare food, tend cash register

Education:

- **August 2011 to Present** **Daniel Boone High School, Gray, Tennessee**
Career Cluster: Veterinary Science GPA: 3.96
Research nutrition, anatomy, and overall animal health care at the Daniel Boone Animal Science Laboratory

Professional Certifications:

- **SCUBA diver certification by Diver's Alert Network, 2011**
Requirements for certification:
 - Safety Test (100% Accuracy Required): Conveyed knowledge of proper safety procedures and demonstrated appropriate handling of equipment
 - Plant and Animal Identification: Communicated information regarding 100 native and exotic plant and animal species, and identified them in a written test

Other Related Experience:

- **Planned and executed SCUBA diving expeditions to the following destinations, among others:**
 - The Cayman Islands 2013
 - Cozumel, Mexico 2013
- **150 Volunteer Hours**
 - Washington County Animal Control Center
 - Other Community Organizations

Awards and Accomplishments:

- East Tennessee FFA Regional President 2014-2015
- Daniel Boone FFA Chapter Vice-President 2014-2015
- Tennessee FFA Association Job Interview State CDE Winner 2014
- National Honor Society Member 2013-2015
- National Beta Club Member 2012-2015

References Available Upon Request