

# ELYSSA MARIE SERRILLI

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## **EDUCATION:**

Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ May 2008

MA: Environmental Studies, Concentration Education

Graduate Teaching Assistant, NJ School of Conservation, Montclair State University

Research: Sustainable Redevelopment at NJSOC; Biofuels & Waste Vegetable Oil Recycling

National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY July 2005

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator 24-day field course

Skills: Risk Management, Leadership Development, Backpacking, Rock-climbing, First Aid

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Dec. 2003

BA: Linguistics, Minor Environmental Science

Clubs: Ultimate Frisbee, NJPIRG

Westfield High School, Westfield, NJ June 1997

Activities: Spanish Club, Latin Club, Environmental Club, Track, Soccer, Rock climbing

## **EMPLOYMENT:**

*Adjunct Facilitator* Apr. 2009 – present

Princeton-Blairstown Center, Blairstown, NJ

Duties: Low & high ropes facilitation, canoeing, team & trust building, campfires & storytelling.

*Administrative Support Guide* Oct. 2008 – June 2009

Ridge and Valley Charter School Blairstown, NJ

Duties: Lead teacher and special ed support in grades K-8; office support; newsletter publication.

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*, NJ School of Conservation Sept. 2006 - May 2008

Montclair State University, Stokes State Forest

Duties: Field-based outdoor education (natural sciences, confidence- and team-building, recreation, colonial living skills), equipment maintenance, curriculum development.

*Youth Mentor*, NJ City University AmeriCorps Program Sept. 2006 - Mar. 2007

NJ Youth Corps of Essex County, International Youth Organization, Newark, NJ

Duties: Mentor at-risk, inner-city youth, assist in worksite activities, plan field trips.

*Environmental Worksite Crew Chief*, NJ Youth Corps Sept. 2004 - Aug. 2006

International Youth Organization, Newark, NJ

Duties: Design and lead environmental community service projects with at-risk youth, network with local organizations, write and oversee grants, maintain and purchase equipment.

*NJ Watershed Ambassador*, NJDEP/AmeriCorps Program Aug. 2002 – Aug. 2003

Host Agency: Great Swamp Watershed Association, Madison, NJ

Duties: Watershed education and outreach; fieldwork; citizenship and community building.

## **SKILLS:**

Environmental education; outdoor recreation guide; community service worksite supervision; community organizing; grant research, writing, and management; public speaking; media relations; sustainable living skills (energy auditing, organic gardening, canning/preserving, leather tanning, blacksmithing, candle making, ferments, composting, biofuels); English/Spanish bilingual.

## **(i) Scholarships & Appointments**

### *Winter 2010 Internship at Rancho Mastatal*

- 3 months of sustainable, community-based living and working (“living the vision”)
- Spanish language immersion and home stay
- WFR Certification (Wilderness First Responder) – medical training
- Green collar job training
  - Solar energy, green building (timber framing, cob, and stone), methane biodigesters, humanure, passive solar water heating, goat herding, basket weaving, bread baking, organic gardening, food preparation, tree cultivation)

### *2009/2010 AmeriCorps Alums Policy Liaison – advocacy, building alumni network in NJ*

### *Summer 2008 PERC Enviropreneur Camp Fellow*

- 3-week intensive training in sustainable small business development and redevelopment with leading “enviropreneurs” from around the world.
- Focus on market-based solutions and for-profit, hybrid business models.

### *Summer 2008 Theta Healing Institute for Knowledge (THiNK) Scholarship Recipient*

- 1-week Rainbow Children course for teaching meditation to children, instructor Viana Stibal.

### *2008 Echoing Green Semifinalist*

### *2007 Wild Gift Semifinalist*

### *2007/2008 Graduate Teaching Assistant, NJ School of Conservation*

- Masters student appointment at Montclair State University’s field campus in Stokes State Forest, Sussex County, NJ.
- Year round outdoor education to 5<sup>th</sup> grade through college students in team building and confidence building, recreation, natural sciences, and Colonial and Native American living skills.

### *Summer 2006 Internship at Rancho Mastatal*

- Work exchange internship at an environmental learning and sustainable living center with near-zero waste/carbon in La Cangreja rainforest, Costa Rica.
- Duties included organic farming, composting, endangered rainforest tree cultivation, ayurvedic food preparation, teaching English, youth mentoring, site maintenance.

### *Summer 2005 Rivendell NOLS Scholarship Recipient*

- Annual scholarship for 3 Newark educators
- Funded participation in Rocky Mountain Outdoor Educator course, National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY, June 2005.

## **(ii) Grants Written & Received**

- NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Mini-grant Program – funded a 9-month education and outreach campaign for Newark elementary school students performed by members of NJ Youth Corps of Newark, NJ. (2005)
- Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership – funded equipment and operations costs for a 12-month education and stream-monitoring program for members of NJ Youth Corps (2005)
- Newark Arts Council – 3 month community art education and mural painting program for NJ Youth Corps community & kick-off barbeque and block party (2006)

## **(iii) Synergistic Activities**

- Event co-coordinator, Annual Passaic Paddle Canoe Relay Race (2005-2006).
- Volunteer, Bioneers By the Bay satellite conference at UMass Dartmouth (October 2007).
- Speaker, Sussex County’s Step it Up Rally, “The science of global warming” (2007).
- Speaker, Evolve Music Festival, “Environmental Activism” (2007)
- Speaker, Evolve Yoga & Music Festival, “Empowerment and Forgiveness” (2009)
- Volunteer, Sustainable Living Roadshow, Democratic and Republican National Conventions (2008).
  - A traveling, veggie-powered environmental carnival, music festival, and green business fair.

**(iv) Member:**

- U.S. Partnership – Decade for Education in Sustainable Development
- ANJEE (Alliance for NJ Environmental Education)
- Environment New Jersey
- NJ Wild Edibles Group
- Transition Northwest New Jersey
- Permaculture Network of New Jersey
- NOFA-NJ (Northeast Organic Farming Association)
- FOR-NJ (Food & Organics Recycling)
- Green Collar Futures, *Co-founder* :)
- Community Green, *Assistant Organizer*

**(v) Masters Research**

- Advisors: Dr. William Thomas and Ms. Regina Kelly, NJ School of Conservation
- Research Project: “Sustainable Redevelopment at the NJ School of Conservation”

**(vi) Certifications**

- Project W.E.T. (Watershed Education for Teachers) facilitator and trainer, Project Learning Tree facilitator
- American Red Cross CPR/First Aid, Wilderness First Aid
- OSHA 40-HR HAZWOPER, NJIT
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension 40-HR Urban & Community Forestry Academy