



Molly O'Connor (she/her/hers)

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science from the University of Oregon

- Biology major with an emphasis in ecology and evolution
- Chemistry and Cinema Studies minors

Master of Science in Natural Resource & Science Management from the University of Minnesota

- Recreation Resources, Tourism, and Environmental Education
- Minor in Program Evaluation

CERTIFICATIONS

- Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – American Red Cross
- Project WET, Project Wild, & Project Flying Wild - DNR

PUBLICATIONS

- Observational Research for St. Croix National Scenic Riverway – Public Report (Published)
- Exploring How Awareness-Making Elicits Meaning-Making in Museum Visitors: A Mixed-Methods Study (In press – Journal of Museum Education)

JOB EXPERIENCE

Owner | Evaluation & Communications Specialist for CC Consulting - Apr 2019 - Present – St. Paul, MN

- Designs and performs customized, utilization-focused program evaluations from start to finish
- Specializes in mixed-methods approaches to triangulate rigor of data
- Writes, designs, and disseminates project findings by infographics, reports, and presentations
- Offers coaching and mentorship on communication and emotional intelligence topics
- Consults on development projects and assists with grant prospecting, writing, and evaluations
- Facilitates evaluation capacity building trainings and teambuilding workshops
- Offers web development services using simple, effective user experience design
- Manages, coordinates, and assists in the production of films

Bell Museum Educator & Part-Time Evaluator - January 2019 - March 2020 – St. Paul, MN

- Designed and taught hands-on professional development workshops and STEAM labs to K-12 students
- Assisted with schedule coordination, budgets, event planning, and other program logistics
- Designed and implemented mixed-methods evaluations to assess and improve programming
- Disseminated evaluation findings via report, presentation, and small-group facilitation

Bell Museum Interpretive Guide & Part-Time Evaluator – May 2018 - January 2019 – St. Paul, MN

- Facilitated engaging and fun interpretative programming, such as natural history tours and birthday parties
- Tended to the Touch and See Lab animals by cleaning, feeding, and socializing them with visitors
- Compiled program evaluation data for reports and grant proposals for the School Programs Manager
- Disseminated assessment findings and recommendations via brief report and small-group facilitation

L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Program Instructor – September 2015 – March 2020 – Bloomington, MN

- Facilitated fun, engaging hiking, snowshoeing, photography and kayaking experiences for adults and youth
- Motivated participants to learn new outdoor skills by being an enthusiastic and authentic educator
- Assisted with ODP special projects, such as promoting ODP programming at tabling events/

Graduate Research Assistantships – May 2017 - August 2018 – MPLS/St. Paul, MN

FEAST! Local Foods Network – Evaluation Research Associate

- Reviewed existing materials including previous reports, raw survey data, etc. so to identify the critical metrics needed to measure program success
- Designed standardized survey and interview tools to compare program impacts year after year
- Utilized mixed methods to analyze and interpret both quantitative and qualitative data
- Presented evaluation findings and recommendations by report and presentation to key network partners

Writing Enriched Curriculum (WEC) Program – Evaluation Research Associate

- Evaluated the Environmental Science Policy and Management (ESPM) program's curriculum at the UoM
- Utilized qualitative research methods and best data management practices to analyze and organize data.
- Used InDesign to develop aesthetically pleasing and easy-to-understand infographics and data displays.

National Park Service (NPS) – Researcher for St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Unit

- Developed an intuitive observation and survey tools using Qualtrics software
- Collected data by counting visitors at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Managed two undergraduate research assistants during the project
- Used SPSS to clean and analyze data to develop tables for the report's results section

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Shinrin-Yoku Adult Program – Evaluation Research Associate

- Conducted a mixed-methods evaluation to assess participant satisfaction and program effectiveness
- Involved key stakeholders throughout the evaluation process to promote evaluation capacity building
- Used Excel and SPSS to code, analyze, and visualize the data into graphs and tables.
- Summarized findings and recommendations and disseminated by an evaluation report.

Independent Living Specialist for Beechwood, INC – December 2015 - August 2017– Minneapolis, MN

- Worked with clients with mental and physical disabilities to help maintain independent living lifestyles
- Assisted clients with developing personal outcomes specific to each individual.
- Supported clients with advocacy projects, such as joining them to the capital to advocate for funding to promote traumatic brain injury research.

Direct Care Staff for JEC Miller – December 2015 - August 2017 – Bloomington, MN

- Helped clients with physical and mental disabilities to live more independently
- Trained in giving and teaching self-care practices
- Worked with clients by encouraging socialization in their community, getting involved with advocacy work, or writing and sharing their life stories through online blogs.

Writer and Contributing Editor for RootsRated.com – August 2014 - October 2015 – Remote/Virtual

- Wrote and published over 70 reviews and 4 feature stories about Minnesota outdoor recreation.
- Comfortable working under pressure and sent in assignments and projects by the deadline.
- Experienced in adding new content, editing, and publishing articles through CMS (WordPress).
- Developed, improved, and organized the media archive
- Photographed for reviews and featured stories.
- Recruited photographers and freelancers to photograph and write destinations and feature stories.
- Promoted the brand by tabling and by presentation at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Expo

Recreation Specialist, Webber Park Recreation Center – Nov 2013 - Aug 2014 - Minneapolis, MN

- Organized and coordinated games, events, and summer camp programming for children
- Called and confronted parents with concerns or issues.
- Worked closely with children with emotional behavior disorders (EBD) and other cognitive disorders

Biology Peer Tutor, University of Oregon Biology Office (Aug 2011-June 2012) – Eugene, OR

- Lead lab sections, graded assignments, and held office hours.
- Motivated students to learn class material.
- Learned fundamental teaching experience.

Biology Peer Advisor, University of Oregon Biology Office - Apr 2010-July 2012 – Eugene, OR

- Advised students' class schedules by appointment, walk-in, and phone call.
- Developed a calm, professional way to deal with stressful situations.
- Gained important problem-solving and interpersonal skills.
- Helped with office tasks while working as an assistant to the Advising Program Coordinator.

Resident Assistant, University of Oregon Housing – Aug 2009 - June 2011 – Eugene, OR

- Created and facilitated programs held on campus and within the residence halls.
- Advised, confronted, and helped residents with educational and personal issues.
- Experienced in writing incident reports and documenting situations.
- Gained essential leadership experience.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Invasive Species Removal - Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden – Sept 2012 - Present – Minneapolis, MN

- Since 2012, I have been involved in the removal of buckthorn and garlic mustard at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary (EBWGBS). Volunteers meet up each spring and fall to pull invasive species outside of the sanctuary border, thus creating a buffer. These pulls are essential for maintaining and encouraging the expansion of native species within and outside the garden's boundary.

West Side Soul – Icy Cup – May 2015 - Present – West St. Paul, MN

- During the warmer months, a friend and I lead weekly public music jam sessions on the West Side of St. Paul. West Side Soul was created to build community and provide more youth development opportunities in West St. Paul. Over the last five years, it has been fulfilling to watch youth attend every week and see them improve in their music abilities and, most importantly, in their confidence playing in front of others.

Camp Counselor – Camp Millennium– June 2009 – June 2015 – Roseburg, OR

- Camp Millennium is a 10-day camp for children dealing with cancer. This camp is completely free for participants and is funded by grants, donations, and volunteer staff. Like many other camps, there are outdoor events and youth development opportunities, such as archery, swimming, teambuilding, and horseback riding. I was a camp counselor for the 5-8 year-old boys for 5 years. I love this camp with all my heart.

SKILLS

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Professionally trained and experienced program evaluator
- Passionate outdoor, environmental, and science educator
- Experienced in program management and grant writing
- Strong program management, time management, and organizational skills
- Thrives in collaborate work environments, and works well independently
- Trained and confident in my knowledge of DE&I best practices
- Proficient in Photoshop, Final Cut Pro X, Microsoft Office Suite, SPSS, Qualtrics, and Survey Monkey

ABOUT ME

- Musician (vocalist and songwriter)
- Writer (I am currently working on a book called The Unproductive Communication Cycle)
- Positive, upbeat personality (huge team player!)
- Outdoor enthusiast (loves hiking, camping, foraging, snowshoeing, identifying plants and animals, etc.)
- Always curious and forever learning

My StrengthsFinder top 5: Empathy | Adaptability | Developer | Positivity | Arranger

Enneagram: 2w3