

Ben Widdison

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EDUCATION

University of Oregon | Eugene, OR

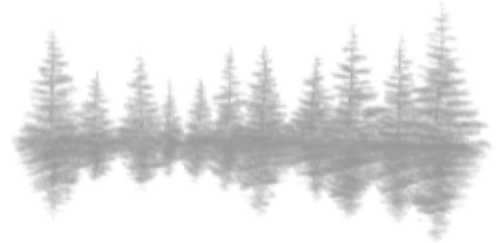
M.N.M: Masters of Nonprofit Management

Graduated: June 2024

Central Michigan University | Mount Pleasant, MI

B.A.A: Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services – Minor: Child Development

Graduated: December 2019 | Honors: Cum Laude and President's Scholar



Relevant Coursework – Both Degrees

Inclusive Recreation

Research & Philosophy of Recreation

Parent-Child Relationships

Families in a Cultural Perspective

Program Evaluation

Budgeting/Funding Leisure Services

Public Sector Theory

Lifespan Development

Liability & Risk Management

Public Collaboration

Visual Communications

Management Skills

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Communications & Development Associate – Friends of Family Farmers

Remote, OR

July 2022 - PRESENT

- Developed organization-wide communications via social media and email
- Designed graphics for both in person and virtual events
- Conducted program evaluation via surveys and interviews to monitor and improve organization programming. Made recommendations for change to executive staff
- Assisted in the management of the Oregon Pasture Network program budget ensuring compliance and accurate reporting while creating projections for up to three years of program funding
- Fostered community partnerships with other mission aligned nonprofits and partnered with them to implement educational opportunities, fundraising events, and peer-to-peer sessions.

Assistant Manager – Thousand Trails Bend-Sunriver

Sunriver, OR

March 2021 - June 2022

- Collaborated with independent contractors to provide recreational opportunities such as kayaking, yoga, and disc golf instruction for our seasonal guests
- Spearheaded capital projects by finding vendors, procuring bids, managing contracts, assessing project development, and allocating resources
- Judiciously managed 13 employees across 4 departments, and actively assessed their development to provide training

VOLUNTEER WORK

Outdoor Opportunities

(Recreation Manager)

- Created after school outdoor recreation programming for children in grades 3-5
- Developed partnerships with area schools to implement programs

Friends of Hendricks Park

(Board Secretary)

- Took meeting minutes and handled all external communications
- Sit on the membership where I engage donors via our CRM software and manage donations

Vashon Parks District

- Sat on the board of the 2019 Low Tide Celebration
- Organized vendors, logistics, and event activities

Vashon Food Bank

- Recruited and organized volunteers for shifts

General Manager - Vashon Adventures

Vashon, WA

May 2019 - October 2020

- Carefully managed a staff of 5 employees across 3 locations, and fostered an enjoyable workplace environment
- Created and led kayaking and paddleboarding classes
- Developed a summer camp program for ages 10-15 that taught the basics of paddle sports, arrest and emergency preparedness, and advanced techniques
- Established new products and offerings such as a glamping option, closing contracts for 2 new campsite locations, and completing a large scale corporate retreat option that booked companies such as Facebook and Travelocity
- Collaborated with local nonprofits and small businesses to assemble a tourism guide that was distributed to dozens of properties in Seattle and was presented at the Northwest Event Show
- Meticulously cared for the maintenance of 4 camping and glamping locations, 3 service locations, and a rental fleet of 58 kayaks, 20 stand up paddleboards, and 35 electric bicycles

CAREER SKILLS

Team Leadership

Program Management

Critical Thinking and Evaluation

Creative Problem Solving

Conflict Resolution

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Program Evaluation

Strategic Planning and Design

Marketing and Communications

Budget Analysis and Management

Curriculum Development