

August 29, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without hesitation that I recommend Andrew Travis to your organization. I've known Andrew since 2009 when he started as a camper at Lake Louise. But, it has been in his capacities as lifeguard, director of the waterfront, and social media intern that I've had the opportunity to truly get to know and appreciate Andrew. He has worked at Lake Louise since his senior year of high school. When I discovered he was bypassing his senior year as a camper to work on the maintenance staff, I was a bit miffed. But, I've come to realize that Andrew is a young man who is always looking forward and his concerns for the betterment of everything in which he is involved. Consequently, his chronological years do not match the level of his maturity. He was ready to move beyond his senior high cohort into the working world.

Transitioning from the role of camper to employee in our camp community is not an easy task. Many former campers have struggled with the changes and cannot move past things they remember as tradition. Andrew has never expressed that. He seemed to realize early on that his role was one of behind the scenes caretaker. Andrew puts first the safety of his charges as well as the preservation of the beach and lake. In talking to other deans as well as other members of the board of trustees who have grandchildren who have been at camp, it is clear that Andrew doesn't offer preferential treatment to his former camp. He gives his best to each and every child who comes to a week at Lake Louise.

Watching Andrew with the campers and his subordinates is impressive. As a middle school teacher and advisor, I am acutely aware that not all of the camp staff grasps teachable moments and the mentoring piece that are necessary, even in an informal teaching environment. This summer, I had the opportunity to watch Andrew as a counselor for upper elementary boys. Not only did he attempt to balance his roles as waterfront director and social media intern with his duties for his cabin, he was clearly well loved as a counselor. He sets firm boundaries and holds the kids to them, and they appreciate the consistency. Andrew also engages the quiet kids, sharing the wonders of Petoskey stones or helping a young man trying to fish. He is respectful of their opinions and ideas, always listening to stories and questions. He takes fabulous pictures of kids enjoying everything the camp has to offer. In addition, Andrew had a younger lifeguard to oversee this summer. Andrew helped the other lifeguard navigate his first summer working at camp. Andrew coached him and quietly corrected issues as they went.

I don't believe you will find a person who is a better example of someone who goes over and beyond his duties without complaining. During our week of senior high camp, Andrew not only gave up his afternoon off to help out with a service project, he also camped out with our seniors the next night. I knew we were asking much, but Andrew did it.

Finally, as a parent of two elementary age children, I'm completely confident with Andrew in charge of the water. My anxiety is at its peak when my kids are near water, yet knowing Andrew is "the boss of the beach" and has trained his crew, I can actually relax while my children play. Plus, the pictures he took of my family, particularly my kids were frame worthy. He has a great eye for dynamic shots. His personality allows people to be completely at ease and their true selves.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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