

Smith Dan

DS: Dan Smith, interviewer

WY: Wade Youngman, subject

DS: Oral interview, November second, 2002. The subject is

WY: Wade Youngman

DS: Why don't a little bit about yourself Wade.

WY: Well, I am twenty three years old and I just graduated from college. I am from Cadillac Michigan where I was born and raised.

DS: What was your course of study in college?

WY: Well first off I thought about Contracting and Construction Management... But after working construction for 4 years and witnessing the condition my boss was in, hunched back, bad knees, and arthritis, I decided to switch my focus to something I was more interested in at the time which was the Ski industry.

DS: That sounds interesting where does one go to school to learn about the Ski industry?

WY: There are two different programs of study in management. One being Western Colorado University, and the other Gothic Community College in Ironwood, MI. Funds being a major factor.

Interview with Wade Youngman Rotary Youth Exchange and the Life of a Roamer

DS: I hear you go that Wade, funds and such can have a major impact on a persons' choice of study. What was the course like, and what were some of the classes you took?

WY: well it's a 2 year course in business management, pretty much any ski resort in the US. You learn all aspects of a ski resort, from cost analysis.

DAN SMITH.

DS: So mostly a business and management focus?

WY: That is a major part, from sales to marketing and management, but there was a lot of hands on courses as well. They want you to leave the course being versatile and able to jump into many different positions at your resort of choice.

DS: Tell me about the hand on portions.

WY: Alright. Some of my favorites were Lift Maintenance which allowed us to learn all the nooks and crannies of the ski lifts. How they work, and how to repair them. Climbing around on towers is fun, being up in the air with your tool belt is a free feeling, knowing you are making the lift safe and operational for hundreds of people who come to enjoy winter activities.

DS: Well I don't know how safe that makes me feel, I know you Wade... no just jokes lets here about another.

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DS: That sounds interesting where does one go to school to learn about the Ski Industry?

WY: There are two different colleges in the US that specialize in Ski Resort Management. One being Western Colorado University, and the other Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, MI. Funds being a major factor I decided on Gogebic where tuition was several thousand dollars less a year.

DS: I hear you on that Wade, loans and such can have a major impact on a persons' choice of study. What was the course like, and what were some of the classes you took?

WY: Well it's a 2 year course including a 6 month paid internship at pretty much any ski resort in the US. You learn all aspects of a Ski Resort from the layout to operations and cost analysis.

DS: So mostly a business and management focus?

WY: That is a major part, from sales to marketing and management, but there was a lot of hands on courses as well. They want you to leave the course being versatile and able to jump into many different positions at your resort of choice.

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WY: Terrain park design was probably the most fun. We got to design jumps and rail set ups and then hop in the Groomer and build what we had just drawn up. I spent hours listening to music and using my imagination to create some really intense hip-jumps, quarter pipes, and rail yards. It's a great skill to have in today's ski industry where thousands of youth are aspiring to be the next Shaun White in the X-games. Freestyle skiing and snowboarding have grown in leaps and bounds, and if you can build the craziest park you will attract crowds.

DS: Did you end up interning out west or east?

WY: I actually did a summer internship for High Peaks Chairlift Co. out of Madison, WI.

DS: Summer work at ski resorts? What did you do?

WY: Climbed towers, painted towers, and did general maintenance on lift lines across the country.

DS: Where all did you work?

WY: We did a lot of Midwest and out east jobs; New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Minnesota. But we did hit some bigger jobs out west as well; Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho were all fun.

DS: That's a lot of travel how did you guys get around?

WY: Company trucks and trailers, a lot of driving but I ran a crew of 4 close friends from college so it was pretty much one huge road trip from May to October. 25,000 miles on the road. Got to know the country fairly well.

DS: Sound like a pretty good experience. How is it now that you have finished your studies?

WY: It's going alright I suppose I can market myself well within the Ski Industry. I get choice over most people who apply for positions because I have knowledge and experience and am able to work in more than just one section of the resort.

DS: Do you currently work at a resort?

WY: Not currently no, I didn't plan my move to Marquette until late and the positions were all filled up, but it's ok I'm not going to be in Marquette for long anyhow.

DS: What are your plans then if not to stay here?

WY: I am currently applying for Americorps positions out in Colorado.

DS: Americorps eh? What made you decide to go that route?

WY: Well I've always gotten a good feeling helping others, and not going to lie the help on student loans will come in very handy.

DS: How does that work with student loans?

WY: Upon joining Americorps your loans are automatically deferred until you are done serving. You get paid a stipend of \$400 a month with free room and board, at least one meal a day and \$5,300.00 towards loans for each ten month term you serve.

DS: That's a fair chunk of change what will you be doing out there in Colorado?

WY: My main focus is Environmental Restoration and awareness. Rebuilding parks and pavilions, trail restoration and construction.

DS: Well with college out of the way and Americorps in 2010 what do you spend most of your free time doing?

WY: An assortment of activities take up my day. Anything outdoors interest me along with a lot of volunteer work. Hiking, Camping, Canoeing, I've done some hitch hiking too which was fun.

DS: Marquette is a great place for the outdoors, there's a lot of amazing trails and hills and lakes to visit around here. What sort of volunteer work have you done or are doing?

WY: Right now I'm involved with Students For Sustainable Living, and The Sulfide Mining in the Yellowdog Plains.

DS: That's a pretty big thing around here have you done other volunteer work?

WY: Yes. I am a member of the Great Lakes Bioneers out of Traverse City, MI where I was an informational hike and team leader for the youth of that area. Promoting nature restoration and clean hiking experiences. I am also involved with Rotary International as a Counselor for Exchange students.

DS: Rotary, how did you get involved with that world wide organization?

WY: Funny story actually, I was 16 in high school and heard an announcement for a meeting on Youth Exchange and it was during Science class, which I despised, so I told my teacher I was going and it turned out I liked what I heard, signed up and went to Australia the following year for 14 months.

DS: What was it like over there ?

WY: Australia was amazing and an incredible experience the culture and way of life over there is simple and free.

DS: Did you attend school? If so what kind of classes did you take?

WY: I went to a really renowned International Highschool called Glenunga. My GPA was frozen so I was able to take whatever classes I wanted some of which were; Film Making and Editing, Photography, Art Design, Music Theory, and Australian Studies. I also played 2 seasons of Rugby for the Glenunga Tigers.

DS: Rugby is an intense sport how did you like it?

Smith Danno

WY: It was so much fun and I got lucky we had an awesome team we went 16-0 my first season and I got a hand written letter from the South Australian Rugby League to come play in Hindmarsh Stadium for the State All Star Match. The same stadium in which I watched Argentina face Ireland in the 2004 Rugby World Cup.

DS: Incredible did you get to see much of the country?

WY: I did actually. Myself an 17 other exchange students rented a bus and went up through the desert and saw wild camels, climbed Uluru (one of the 7 wonders of the world) then headed east to the coast through the rainforest to Arlie Beach and the Whitsundays where we went diving on the Great Barrier Reef (another wonder) then surfed down the entire Gold Coast to Sydney where we hit the town for 4 days before flying back to Adelaide.

DS: The adventure of a lifetime it seems, have you made it back there since returning home?

WY: unfortunately no, It is fairly expensive to travel 10,000 miles via plane. Who'd have thought haha.

DS: True. So what does life have in store for you after Americorps.

WY: Ahh that's a good question. I don't really know. I'm putting in 2 years in the Corps to knock away my loans and build a good resume and I don't even know what I'm doing tomorrow so who can say in 2 years where I'll be and what I'll be doing.

DS: Take a guess, where DO you think you'll be and what do you think you'll be doing?

WY: Hopefully some adventure in another country. I want to surf South America for a while, Equador and Brazil, and hopefully shred some mountains in Chile. See the world a little more and I'm sure things will fall into place. I'm young I've got time on my side.

DS: Eventful, Well I think that bout raps out interview up Wade. Thanks much for your time and stories it's been an interesting discussion.

WY: Not a problem Danno glad I could help out. Hey where's your bathroom this coffee has done run its course haha.

DS: down the hall up the stairs and to the right.