

Personal Skills Inventory

Submitted By Andrew Steel

Submitted for BHO 3999

January, 15, 2021

Narrative for Personal Skills Inventory:

Experiential Competencies:

The experiential learning of my life can be broken down into three major categories. The first major skill set i acquired in life was outdoor guiding and education for which i spent 10 years of my life pursuing. The second being concrete construction and finishing which I spent 15 years accomplishing ending in a three year self employment stint. The last category is horticulture with a specialization in cannabis. I have been actively pursuing this trade for the last seven years.

Between the ages of 15 and 18 I got the opportunity to work for a portable climbing wall company called Odyssey Recreational Adventures. It entailed driving 30 foot long custom climbing walls, around to different events in alberta. My job entailed set up and taking down the wall, as well as, safely instructing children in how to safely rock climb and have fun. This is the job that spring boarded me into the world of climbing and the even bigger world of outdoor recreation education.

After High school I left for the west coast of Canada to Squamish, B.C. For a year and a half period I lived at a backpackers hostel. While there I partook in many real rock climbing adventures. I became quite proficient in medium to high difficulty multi-pitch climbing routes. I also ventured out of the climbing world and explored the world of mountain biking, expedition hiking, and white water kayaking. I did these activities with travelers from all over the world.

The following summer I moved to Vancouver where I found a summer job placement called Ocean-west Expeditions, taking small groups of kayakers out into English Bay Beach on kayaking trips. I had to be engaging with customers and have a good interpretive knowledge of the area. When I wasn't taking groups out I had to maintain the fleet of kayaks in a rental capacity. This involved having customers signing waivers and giving a quick safety lesson before allowing them to head out. Assisting customers on launch and return and cleaning out the boats in between rentals.

My final experience with outdoor rec was when I spent the summer when I was 21 in Egmont, B.C. I spent the summer there after a sudden cabin fire burned all my possessions and instead of leaving the town I was inspired to stay. I joined a friend from college and we spent 3-4 days a week kayak surfing in the wildest water in Canada, The Skookumchuck or Skooks as some call it. These waters can reach speeds of 17 knots and form one of the biggest standing waves in the world. After a number of near death experiences I returned home to Alberta where I put that lifestyle behind me due to the high risk nature and focused on my second competency concrete.

Although my first competency came from passion my second competency came from necessity. The need for money drove me to learn concrete as a trade. I

found it suited my hardcore personality and it kept me in shape and on top of the game. I spent the better part of 12 years working for my best friend's father in the concrete trade. A man with over 40 years of experience he taught me how to do a multitude of different jobs and to work with a multitude of different products. He was also a world renowned artist and many of those talents were taught to me through concrete. Upon my mentor's retirement I took what I had been taught and ran my own business for three years with a great deal of success. After 12 years of concrete I was having health concerns related to the toxicity of the products used and decided to train in a different craft.

Over the past five years I was introduced to the world of cannabis by an old mentor of mine by the name of Eric Peterson. He slowly instructed me in how to grow excellent cannabis and especially introduced me to working with special outdoor strains. I learned how to grow from seed, clone, train plants for maximum yield, deal with pests and how to maximize fertilization with creation of organic soils. After many trial and errors and many summer seasons I finally feel that I can grow some of the best cannabis on the planet. I owe most of that knowledge to my mentor and the experience gained to myself.

Educational Competencies:

I have a 1 year certificate in Wilderness Leadership attained in Squamish, B.C at the Capilano University. The course focused on professional development of outdoor skill sets including, Mountain guiding, white water kayaking, seas kayaking, backcountry ski touring, avalanche safety, sailing, rock climbing, risk management, wilderness first aid,

group safety and management, canoeing, wildlife identification, plant identification, geology, and overall leadership. I attained this education at the age of 19.

I have a tradeship in concrete construction and finishing with hands on experience through one on one training with Rocky Barstad Contracting. This tradeship lasted between the ages of 23 to 36. Skills learned include; Cribbing, surveying, excavation, client customer relations, finishing of different kinds of concrete, broomed, stamped, exposed, and color.

I am currently attending Olds College Horticulture program. I have already completed the Horticulture Technician certificate and the Horticulture Technologist Diploma. I am currently working on attaining my BAS in Horticulture. Skill sets I have learned include; soil science, design, plant identification, water management, propagation, landscape maintenance, production, pest management, fertilization, tree health and maintenance, landscape construction, project management, and scientific method.

Competencies and Skills:

1. Demonstrate leadership skills in guiding a medium sized group on a four day backpacking trip.

- a. Show up on time
 - i. Be a couple hours early.
 - ii. Share a well written itinerary with all participants.
 - iii. Make sure meeting place is well marked out

- b. Show up fully prepared
 - i. Have all my personal gear prepared so I can help others get ready.
 - ii. Have every member pack, packed and ready to go.
 - iii. Have an hour long intro before you head out, making note of any special needs.

Evidence:

- Many customer testimonials to back up my work over the years.
- College transcripts on the training I have received in college.

2. Set up a Safety line for the steep section of trail.

- a. Make sure the group is safe while I go ahead to set ropes.
 - i. Ask the assistant guide to take over group management.
 - ii. Use walkie talkies to stay in contact with the main group.
 - iii. Have an emergency plan in place.

- b. Make sure the safety line is set up professionally.
 - i. Make sure the anchor attachment point has good integrity.
 - ii. Use the best climbing equipment that has not been dropped or damaged.
 - iii. Make sure clients are instructed in how to properly use equipment and supervised by both guide and assistant.

Evidence:

- I have demonstrated proper rope work in front of many individuals over many years.
- I received an A in my rock rescue course in college.
- No injuries on any system i have set up.

3. Demonstrate proper concrete pour procedure.

- a. Make sure all equipment and labour is onsite.
 - i. All finish tools assembled and ready to use.
 - ii. All labour wearing rubber boots and personal ppe.
 - iii. All labour in their positions.
- b. Make sure concrete is ordered properly.
 - i. Job is measured properly and subsequent concrete ordered.
 - ii. Time of delivery set for as early in the morning as possible.
 - iii. Proper additives added into concrete based on weather conditions.

Evidence:

- I have physical concrete jobs all over southern alberta.
- Customer testimonials

- Picture and video documentation.

4. Understand how different weather conditions affect Concrete.

- a. Understand weather trends in your area for the time of year.
 - i. Look back at weather trends that have been documented.
 - ii Understand when there is higher risk for thunderstorms and hail.
 - iii. Use natural shade to protect from extreme heat.
- b. Understand new technology that can help predict the weather.
 - i. Use cell phone technology for real time weather updates.
 - ii. Come prepared with tarps for potential bad weather.
 - iii. Always spray concrete with a surface sealer post pour.

Evidence:

- There is a ton of information on Alberta's weather patterns and new tech being used.

5. Propagate cannabis with 90 percent success rate.

- a. Use a seed germination method.
 - i. Always p.H water to 5.5 with no additives
 - ii. Use dixie cups full of soil, cover with saran wrap.
 - iii. Use a heating pad under cups to produce heat.
 - iv. Place in a mini greenhouse under 200 watt HPS light.
- b. Use a cloning method.
 - i. Place rockwell cubes in a mini greenhouse tray.
 - ii. Fill with p.H water 5.5 and soak for 10 min.

- iii. Drain 90 percent of water or till tray ways 8 lbs
- iv. Use sterilized tools and cut clone from bottom of plant four nodes down.
- v. Cut stem on angle, cut leaf tips to encourage root growth, use rooting hormone and place in the cube.
- vi. Place the greenhouse lid on and place under 200 watt light.
- vii. spray greenhouse lid three times a day.

Evidence:

- I've used this method numerous times and if it is followed it will always produce 90 percent or better results.
- Documented pictures and video.
- This method can be followed to test.