

# ELLI MORRIS

Facilitator, Outdoor Educator, and Advocate for Nature

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## EXPERIENCE

### **Elli Morris Stills & Motion, Richmond, VA — CEO**

JANUARY 2006 - PRESENT

Execute all aspects of photography and environmental filmmaking businesses: artistic conception, direction, production, camerawork, scheduling, marketing, public relations, accounting, social outreach. Independently produced more than 50 environmental film shorts.

### **Outdoor Adventure Programs, Parks & Rec, Chesterfield County, VA — Program Developer, Instructor (Part-time)**

APRIL 2006 - MAY 2018

Pioneered County's first teen whitewater kayak and adventure race camps. Facilitated youth camp programs, lead 250 eco tours, taught whitewater kayak programs. Supervised and implemented adaptive kayak program for 30 athletes. Facilitator at challenge course, lead group debriefs, persuaded participants to go beyond self-imposed fears.

### **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond, VA — Curriculum Developer, Instructor (Contract)**

JANUARY 2006 - DECEMBER 2008

Executed Children's Garden's first outreach program. Rendered leadership's goals into course curriculum. Orchestrated seven six-week outdoor science lessons. Provided hands-on learning opportunities for 70 inner city and at-risk third and fourth graders.

## EDUCATION

### **University of Nevada, Reno — Photography**

Non-degree Graduate Student, 1993

### **University of Kentucky, Lexington — Bachelor of Science**

Major in Forestry, 1983

## SKILLS

Executive decision-making capabilities.

Keynote speaker for regional conferences.

Persuasive and inspirational leader.

Deep knowledge in bridging the gap for beginners to find joy in nature.

## AWARDS

**1st Place at District and 2nd Place at Area** Toastmasters International Speech Competitions and Table Topics Competitions.

**Hermes Platinum Creative Award, Gold Achievement of Excellence Communicator Award** for self-published book, *Cooling the South: the Block Ice Era, 1875-1975*.

**Second-place and Third-place Winner** at Richmond Environmental Film Festival.

## CREDENTIALS

ACA L4 Whitewater Instructor  
SUP Pro Rider, KPO Designs  
Competent Communicator, TI  
Leave No Trace, Trainer  
Wilderness First Aid, SOLO

## PROJECTS

### **Forestry Trail Maintenance Crews**

JUNE 2018 - AUGUST 2018

Volunteered for three weeks building new trails, rehabilitating old trails, and restoring riparian zones. American Hiking Society at Trinidad, CA; Pacific Crest Trail Association at Mount Hood, OR; and US Forest Service at Sawtooth Valley, ID.

### **Mardi Gras RVA!**

OCTOBER 2010 - FEBRUARY 2018

Founder, artistic director, television promoter of Dogtown Dance Theatre's annual signature event. Consistently listed in Richmond, VA's "Top 5 Picks" each year.

### **Affair with the James**

AUGUST 2013

Premiere of this film attracted 300 attendees to riverside city park in 2013. Community response inspired area nonprofits to create annual ongoing event "Films on the Floodwall," showcasing locally produced photography & films celebrating the James River.

### **Save Chesterfield County Outdoor Adventure Programs**

JANUARY 2010 - APRIL 2010

Spearheaded tri-county campaign that saved department from complete elimination due to a 100% budget cut. Supplied media with key opportunities, addressed policymakers during live broadcasts, persuaded Board of Supervisors to reverse decision to 3% cut.

### ***Cooling the South: The Block Ice Era, 1875-1975***

APRIL 2003 - OCTOBER 2008

Author, researcher, photographer, publisher, promoter of award-winning seminal coffee-table history book. Keynote speaker at four regional association conferences with up to 350 attendees. During South & mid-Atlantic book tour delivered over 125 speeches, appeared on CBS Good Morning Show, organized 55 interviews with local newspapers, magazines, and radio shows.

References available upon request.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Mentor for high school filmmaker** at James River Leadership Academy, 2016.

**#TreeADay #Photo**, daily Twitter posts connected trees to clean air and water, 2016.

**Nature photography workshops** for teens and adults to increase student interactions with & learning about nature, 2012-2018.

**Grant recipient** for public art project, "Drains to the James," 2016.

## CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS

**Traveled to all 50 US states**, lived in 12, 1979-2018.

**48 Countries in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central America, Europe, North America, and Oceania** 1979-2017.

**Expedition photographer** for Yerkes Research Center team studying Spider and Howler monkeys, Belize, CA, 1991.

**One of 16 students** invited on first agricultural tour of China in 1983.