

# Xiaoyi (Sydney) Shen

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## SUMMARY OF SKILLS

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- Passionate outdoor enthusiast with 3 summers experience leading day camps and presenting ecological and environmental information to groups of participants
- Skilled at designing engaging and informative activities in nature to capture and maintain audience attention
- Experienced group leader and educator with a focus on team dynamics and positive attitudes

## EDUCATION

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**University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, BC

*Expected Graduation May 2017*

*Bachelor of Science – Major in Biology, Minor in Environmental Science*

## EDUCATOR AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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**Evergreen Foundation**, Vancouver, BC

*Sept 2015 – Ongoing*

*Educator (Volunteer)*

- Organized presenters and programs for three public education and fundraising events which raised a total of \$10,000
- Increased public awareness of current recycling and air pollution initiatives by researching attendees and then engaging one-on-one with potential donors during fundraising events
- Assisted with marketing public education and fundraising events by designing promotional flyers, resulting in an average increased attendance of 20%

**YWCA**, Vancouver, BC

*June 2013 – Aug 2015*

*Day Camp Leader*

- Organized scheduling and logistics for groups of 10 youths ages 7-10 in weekly outdoor activities including hiking and kayaking, to model healthy lifestyles and active living
- Connected children to nature by coordinating with Parks Board to create an innovative, week-long, “Hug a Tree” program where children adopted a local park tree and cared for it
- Enriched children’s summer experience by designing indoor and outdoor group activities that were fun, interactive, and educational

**Big Cove Camp**, Vancouver, BC

*June 2012 – July 2013*

*Camp Counsellor*

- Planned and coordinated activities such as rock-climbing for a group of 20 inner-city youth ages 12-14 to improve troubled youths’ self-esteem through outdoor pursuits
- Improved participation of minority and marginalized children by creating an introduction game called “Guess my Gift” that encouraged participants to identify each other’s strengths
- Expanded camp’s swimming and boating programs by developing and delivering a beginner’s water safety class for 30 youths

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**University of British Columbia***Mar 2016**MURC Student Research Conference*

- Researched the effects of public parks on human health by reviewing existing literature to generate a thesis question exploring this relationship, and then conducting an online survey of over 200 volunteers
- Found a correlation with between public park use and decreased anxiety, depression, and perceived stress
- Presented research findings to over 300 conference attendees

**BIOL 343 Plants and Peoples, University of British Columbia***Sept 2015–Dec 2015**Third year course studying the interactions of plants and human societies*

- Course material included the role of people in the origin, evolution, and dispersal of food, drug, and economic plants, and the influences of plants on human societies
- Presented a poster to 40 peers on the use of Cedar by First Nations communities as an economic commodity

**ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Sears, Vancouver, BC***Jun 2015 – Aug 2016**Customer Service Representative*

- Helped customers in the linen and housewares department to determine their needs and preferences, and match these to products that best fit
- Maintained customer satisfaction by offering personable, efficient service with a smile
- Was awarded Top Employee of the Month for scoring 100% on a “Mystery/Secret Shopper” assessment, in addition to generating the most sales over the course of the month for a part-time associate

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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**Member, BC Federation of Mountain Clubs***Sept 2013 – Present*

- Participated in, and helped to organize, single and multiday backcountry skiing, hiking and rock climbing trips throughout the southern province

**Member, UBC Debating Team***Sept 2013–Mar 2014*

- Debated against other university teams in competitions with a 5-person student team throughout the province and across Canada