

BENJAMIN L. LESTER

Benjamin dot lester at gmail dot com

EDUCATION

- University of California, Santa Cruz** **2003 – 2006**
- B.S. in Ecology and Evolution (Highest Honors)
 - GPA 3.92; College Eight Honors; Phi Beta Kappa
 - Studied fall semester 2005 at James Cook University, Townsville, Australia

WORK EXPERIENCE

- National Outdoor Leadership School – Instructor** **2009 – Present**
- Co-lead two to four week-long wilderness trips for students aged 17 – 27
 - Assessed to work sailing, hiking, and rock climbing courses; 15 field weeks (01/2010)

- Freelance Journalist** **2007 – Present**
- Specializing in scientific and environmental issues. Freelance outlets include: *Science*, *Cosmos*, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) *Bulletin*.
 - List of published work: http://www.benjaminlester.com/blog/?page_id=10

- Amistad America, Inc. – Bosun** **July – November 2008**
- Joined *Amistad*, a 129-ft topsail schooner, as a deckhand. Handled sail and taught lessons on *Amistad's* history. After one month, promoted to bosun.
 - As bosun, duties included maintaining the vessel's rigging and woodwork, liaising with suppliers, and leading watches while underway.

- Howard Hughes Medical Institute – News and Media Intern** **January – June 2008**
- Wrote articles on HHMI education initiatives and investigator research, including the August 2008 HHMI *Bulletin* cover story, "Thinking like an Engineer."
 - Produced podcast-style audio interviews with researchers to accompany news stories.

- Science magazine – News Department Intern** **July – December 2007**
- Reported on domestic and international scientific research and policy news for *Science* magazine and its online news service, *ScienceNOW*.
 - Interviewed Congressmen and other public figures on a range of scientific issues.

- Cosmos magazine/Luna Media – Editorial Intern** **October 2006 – April 2007**
- Responsible for writing news and feature stories on science and the environment for *Cosmos*, *Cosmos Online*, and *G: The Green Lifestyle Magazine*.
 - Edited multi-page segments of *Cosmos*. Acted as deputy online editor for a 3 month period, editing and publishing over 150 news and feature articles.

- Los Angeles Maritime Institute – Carpenter/Deckhand** **February 2002 – September 2003**
- Worked on build crew of *Exy* and *Irving Johnson*, 110-ft sailing vessels, for 14 months. Assisted with systems installation, then took on a variety of woodworking and rigging projects.
 - When *Irving* embarked on maiden voyage, volunteered as ship's carpenter. On return, promoted to paid deckhand. Managed sail, taught students, and trained volunteer crew.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Best Newcomer to Journalism, Publishers Australia Bell Awards, 2007