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Dear Peace Corps and NASA officials,

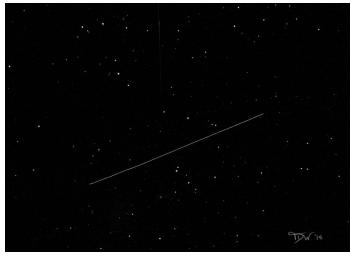
It is with great enthusiasm that I apply for this opportunity to shadow a NASA executive. My admiration for NASA extends back to a childhood fascination with astronomy that flourished over the years into a deep personal hobby of reading, studying, and observing the Cosmos. My most recent experience in Lesotho with the Peace Corps unveiled a sky to which I had never seen before. The remote mountains of this tiny African nation provided an unfettered look into our stellar neighborhood; one in which I had previously never seen before growing up in the light-saturated suburbs of Chicago.

I took this opportunity to start an Astronomy club at the high school I taught at. We met weekly and held discussions and observations about the solar system, galaxies, the relative size of objects in space, our position in the universe, and extra-terrestrial life (a topic which they were extremely interested in!). We would observe constellations, satellites, and the planets. It was a resounding success and something I will always hold close when defining my Peace Corps experience.

If selected, it would fulfill a lifelong dream of mine to become involved in my deepest passion in an official capacity.



Viewing the Sun with solar glasses supplied by NASA's EPO dept.



30 sec exposure of an ISS transit over Thaba-Tseka, Lesotho (retweeted by @Cmdr_Hadfield)