

# RPCV Travis Wohlrab

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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)*