



# Eagle's Nest Center, Inc.

Teaching Good Values and Principles for Life!

## Tammy J. Splittstoesser, Veteran/Anthropologist



### General Background Information

I grew up in Urbana, Illinois, the daughter of self-employed dry cleaners. I had two older brothers (by six and seven years). Our neighborhood was a rural one, with six boys and me. From an early age I played in their sports. Our family heated the house almost exclusively with wood; many Saturday plans to hang out with friends were instead spent splitting and hauling wood. Other family outings included regular camping and fishing trips. Being rough and tumble was just a normal part of being a part of my family and the only girl in my small neighborhood. Participation in school sports were highly encouraged and so cheerleading and track & field were my extracurricular activities. In the private sector I had a private instructor to train me in karate.

### Education

My junior year in high school was spent as a Congress Bundestag scholarship recipient in Germany, as a foreign exchange student. While in Germany, my host family encouraged me to pursue my sport of choice and so I trained and competed internationally in the events of shot put and discus. One year abroad was sufficient to infect me with an intense interest in world travel and pique my curiosity about cultural diversity. My first BA degree was conferred by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with my majors being education (grades 1-9) and English. By the time of this expedition, I will have completed a second BA in anthropology.

### Professional History

I joined the military at age 27, not the typical age for a new recruit. I vividly remember my drill sergeants as people who had the job of not only training me, but to push me beyond what I thought were reasonable limits. Even more vividly, I recall falling asleep every night of basic training thinking, "I accomplished everything that was expected of me today". The army deployed me twice, once to Afghanistan and then two years later to Iraq. In Afghanistan I fueled helicopters and in Iraq I was the enlisted personnel in charge of running the military personnel education center. Between deployments I worked with at risk youth via the Lincoln's Challenge program, a twenty two week residency, semi-military run program that engages youth (ages 16-19) in life skills mentoring, forty hours of community service, and academic work geared towards obtaining a GED. The program is largely managed through the Bureau of the National Guard and requires that all cadre staff have a minimum of six years of military service. I recently completed six weeks of intense archaeological work in a remote area of Alaska.

### International Experience

I have traveled Germany extensively, spent time in France, Holland, Poland, and count my deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq as quite eye-opening experiences.

### Hobbies and Interests

Engaging in intricate beadwork and traveling the world are high on my priority list. Spending significant amounts of time in my tipi and reading a variety of genres of literature are also enjoyable.