



Naturalist

JOB DESCRIPTION

Definition

The Naturalist is responsible for providing engaging, hands-on environmental and social science education programs for children in an outdoor setting. Naturalists help students develop curiosity, knowledge, and appreciation for the natural world while fostering a sense of responsibility for its care. The Naturalist teaches school and community programs, Nature Camps, and other ENC educational programs, and develops age- and theme-appropriate curriculum as assigned.

Supervision: The Naturalist works under the direct supervision of the Education Director.

Essential Functions/Duties Include But Are Not Limited To:

1. Teach on-site science and social science school programs aligned with California State Standards.
2. Teach community programs, including Scout programs, birthday parties, overnights, enrichment programs, and other educational experiences, in accordance with program requirements and the mission of the ENC.
3. Teach Nature Camps as assigned, including attending required training, developing and submitting age- and theme-appropriate curriculum, preparing program materials, and participating in camp evaluation and planning. Camp assignments may include holidays and days adjacent to holidays.
4. Prepare instructional materials before programs and clean and return materials following programs.
5. Supervise students throughout programs and through release to authorized guardians, maintaining a safe and positive learning environment at all times.
6. Maintain positive, professional communication with students, parents and guardians, teachers, group leaders, volunteers, and visitors.
7. Follow established program budgets and arrange necessary purchases through the supervisor within budgetary limitations.
8. Identify and promptly report safety hazards and take appropriate immediate action, including closing trails or program areas when necessary.
9. Staff the front desk and Center as requested, including occasional evenings and weekends, and participate in required ENC special events such as Fall Faire and Spring Faire.
10. Perform additional duties as assigned.

Qualifications & Requirements

1. Commitment to the mission, vision, and core values of the Environmental Nature Center.
2. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and demonstrate flexibility.
3. Knowledge of California plant and animal life highly desirable.
4. Knowledge of California Native American history, cultures, and local Indigenous communities highly desirable.
5. Ability and willingness to safely handle a variety of animals, including arthropods and snakes.
6. Ability to learn, retain, and accurately communicate natural and cultural history information.
7. Ability to make independent decisions and respond appropriately to the immediate needs of students, emergency situations, and programs.
8. Ability to work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions and temperatures.
9. Ability to lift and move up to 50 pounds and set up program equipment.
10. Ability to hike on trails and traverse stairs and uneven terrain while carrying equipment.
11. Ability to be on your feet for four or more hours per day.
12. Regular, reliable, and punctual attendance.
13. Ability to work irregular hours, including occasional weekends and evenings.

14. Ability to interact successfully and professionally with supervisors, coworkers, teachers, parents and guardians, students, volunteers, and visitors.
15. Ability to communicate consistently via email and respond to communications from supervisors in a timely manner.
16. Comfort using email, computers, and common workplace software, with the ability and willingness to learn new technology and software as needed.
17. Must possess a valid driver's license.
18. Fingerprinting will be required.

Skill to:

1. Instruct, engage, and supervise children in an outdoor setting.
2. Create and implement engaging, age- and theme-appropriate curriculum.
3. Communicate effectively in English, both orally and in writing.
4. Create and maintain strong cooperative relationships with school personnel, volunteers, coworkers, students, and families.
5. Understand and carry out oral and written instructions independently.
6. Understand and follow applicable ENC policies, procedures, rules, and regulations.
7. Education, Training, and Experience:
8. Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university with coursework in science, education, environmental studies, or a related field desired, or an equivalent combination of education and relevant experience.
9. Experience working with children in environmental education, outdoor education, interpretation, camp, classroom, or a related setting desired. Experience developing and leading thematic, hands-on programs is highly desirable.
10. Ability to demonstrate a patient, receptive, and age-appropriate approach when working with students of varied ages and abilities in both small- and large-group settings.
11. Current CPR and First Aid certification required within two months of employment.

Starting wage: \$20.00 per hour. This is an hourly position.