



Environmental Educator

Position Description

Updated December 2021

Riveredge is more than a nature center. Its legacy as a pioneer in the areas of land restoration, research, and inquiry-based education throughout Wisconsin serves as a strong foundation for its future initiatives. Today, Riveredge is redefining the role of the nature center in the community by empowering and supporting communities to live in harmony with their natural environment in a way that encourages exploration, adventure, and fun. The mission of Riveredge Nature Center is to support conservation through education that awakens curiosity, engages the body, and explores connections to nature for all generations.

Riveredge has more than 50 years in history as a leader in environmental education in the State of Wisconsin. The Center provides science-based, inquiry-oriented, outdoor experiences to learners of all ages. In 2014, Riveredge adopted an “audacious goal” to become the leading destination in the Midwest for learning, discovering, and experiencing the interconnections between nature and society. We will do this through creating partnerships which transform the culture of our formal education systems, communities, and lifestyles. This is an exciting time in the history of Riveredge as we work to pioneer strategies to redefine the role of nature centers in today’s society.

Position Purpose

This Environmental Educator candidate is expected to work as part of the Riveredge Nature Center team of staff and volunteers. This position is responsible for teaching environmental education programs to families, adults and school-aged students, and the delivery of educational events throughout the year. This is a part-time position with a cap of 990 hours for the year, with the majority of programming happening between the months of March and November.

Responsibilities

Primary Responsibilities

- Serve as a lead teacher for Homeschool Ed-ventures. Classes for the homeschool student audience are held bi-weekly on Monday, Wednesday & Friday in spring, fall & winter trimesters.
- Teach inquiry-based environmental education programs for school-aged children during peak school program months on-site, off-site or virtually, : March-early June and September-November.
- Teach environmental education programs for evening and weekend public groups and adults an average of six days per month.
- Assist in the delivery of new curriculum materials for a variety of environmental education programs for school, Scout, youth group, summer and family audiences as needed.
- Assist with special education programs and events such as the Maple Sugaring Festival, Frog Fest, Family Egg Hunt, Trails & Treats, and Handmade for the Holidays as needed.
- Deliver Community Outreach Programs offsite of Riveredge property.
- Teach a minimum of 3 weeks of Nature Journeys summer camps on site at Riveredge and lead Summer Day Adventures from June to August.
- Other relevant duties as assigned.

Position Expectations

In addition to the Primary Duties, the Environmental Educator is expected to meet the following expectations set forth to all staff members of Riveredge Nature Center:

- Meaningfully contribute to the Riveredge staff team.
- Regularly participate in staff meetings and internal professional development training.
- Foster an inclusive and supportive environment through personal actions such as supporting and helping other staff members and volunteers.
- Provide high-quality customer service experiences to all guests and volunteers.
- Strive for excellence and innovation.

Compensation

Pay is determined by background and experience, the base rate for qualified applicants is \$15/hr.

Benefits & Working Conditions

This is a part-time, hourly position with hours fluctuating based on the season. Ideally, the Environmental Educator will agree to work at least three days per week during the busy teaching seasons (fall, maple sugarin', and spring).

Additional working conditions include:

- Assume occasional travel within southeastern Wisconsin. (mileage reimbursement provided)

This position reports directly to the Associate Director of Education.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in education, natural sciences or a related field.
- Self-starter and a well-developed ability to set and meet goals and outcomes.
- Loves working with children of all ages and families in a public setting.
- Enthusiastic, positive, motivated and likes to have fun on the job.
- Flexible, creative teacher with experience (K-adult) in a formal or non-formal setting.
- Ability to work as a member of a team by sharing decision making while personally assuming and also asking for responsibility and accountability.
- Strong interpersonal skills, organized and professional demeanor, self-directed.
- Ability to physically traverse and transport gear over the Riveredge trails with ease.
- Naturalist skills and knowledge of Wisconsin natural history.
- Experience with Google docs, Google calendar and social media.

Timeline

We are currently seeking a pool of candidates for this position. Applications will be reviewed as soon as they are received. Interviews will be conducted as early as December 20, 2021. The position will begin as soon as Monday, January 3, 2022.

To apply: please send a letter of interest, resume and a list of three references *in a single document* to Kacey Tait, Inquiry Based Learning Manager, at ktait@riveredge.us