



Seasonal Environmental Educator (part-time)

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, a leading environmental education provider for the Philadelphia region, seeks a passionate and energetic naturalist/early childhood educator to engage the public in meaningful and innovative learning experiences in nature.

Position Summary

The Seasonal Environmental Educator primarily serves in our afterschool program, providing supervision and support for preschool children (3-5 years old) in the mixed-age outdoor program. S/he will serve as an afterschool educator September - June, engaging children ages 3-5 years old in nature-based play on our property. The Seasonal Environmental Educator may also staff other programs and special events as needed. The core schedule for this position is Monday – Friday, 3:00 – 6:00 pm; however, other opportunities for AM and weekend hours will be available as needed.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Supervise children at all times. Aware of entire group of 3 – 5 year olds while working with a larger group. Maintaining proper ratios at all times
- Provide mentorship and guidance to children, supporting their social-emotional, physical, and intellectual development, healthy risk assessment, and community building.
- Interact with children outdoors for extended periods of time
- Respect and observe children’s interests. Intervene when needed to maintain safety. Enhancing children’s play with language, toys, and activities
- Interact with children frequently, affectionately and respectfully
- Available and responsive to children’s needs, questions, and requests
- Acknowledging feelings with sensitivity, and modeling appropriate social behavior
- Communicate with parents and families on a daily basis to inform them of their child’s development, achievements, and any concerns
- Organize environment and keep equipment safe, clean and accessible for children to use independently
- Support SCEE’s mission, philosophies, values, goals and policies to parents, co-workers and community
- Complete all required administrative paperwork in a timely manner
- Assist with other projects in the education department as requested
- Regularly engage in professional development opportunities

Expected Competencies

- Desire and ability to engage youth in learning experiences using developmentally appropriate pedagogy and group management techniques, especially children in early childhood
- An understanding of early childhood development, the different stages of growth, and an awareness of young children’s needs
- Interest in the natural sciences, local flora and fauna, and outdoor-based education
- Excellent customer service skills, with ability to build relationships with constituents and partners based on integrity and trust

- Desire and ability to employ redirection and positive behavior modification strategies when confronted with challenging behaviors among children we serve
- Strong work ethic and personal integrity displaying initiative and ownership
- Adapt and be flexible with quickly changing environments
- Team-oriented with strong interpersonal skills; work collaboratively with fellow staff and ability to communicate in a timely and respectful manner
- Ability to make decisions wisely based upon available and sometimes limited data

Physical Demands/Work Environment

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

During most of the year, the Seasonal Environmental Educator spends the better part of her/his day outdoors. The employee must be able to:

- Spend multiple hours outdoors in all weather (heat, cold, rain, snow)
- Hike 2-5 miles a day on rough terrain, keeping pace with the children in their care
- Engage in sustained physical activity throughout the day
- Lift up to 50 pounds (size of a small child)
- Hear children that might be out of direct sight-line
- Have 20:20 vision (with corrective lenses) to provide oversight during outdoor play

The employee is also regularly required to stand, walk and use hands and arms to operate general office equipment (PC, telephone, file cabinets, copier, fax machine and printer). The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate to low.

Education, Experience and Qualifications

- An Associate's or Bachelor's degree is preferred in one of the following: early childhood, elementary education, social work or related degrees. A minimum of 2 years comparable experience.
- Must pass background checks and complete all requirements mandated by the state.

Compensation

This entry-level position is part-time, paid hourly, rate is commensurate with experience.

To Apply

Please submit your resume, cover letter and contact information for three professional references to Damien Ruffner at damien@schuylkillcenter.org

We value a racially, ethnically and culturally diverse work community and we strongly encourage applications from people of all backgrounds. E.O.E.