



Early Childhood and Environmental Educator Irvine Nature Center

Overview

Irvine Nature Center is a non-profit educational organization that offers programs of environmental studies and natural science to children and adults of the greater Baltimore area. Our mission is to educate and inspire current and future generations to explore, respect and protect nature.

Position Summary/Description:

We are currently seeking a creative, enthusiastic, and organized individual to join our team of educators as an Environmental Education Teacher in our Eco-Explorers After School and Earth Friends Homeschool programs. Responsibilities include planning for and facilitating both onsite outdoors homeschool classes for children 6-12 years old on site at Irvine and after school programs at local elementary schools. While both programs are anchored by environmental education principals and content, there is a great deal of approaching learning through play and exploration. This individual will work in a variety of roles alternating between assisting, co-teaching, and leading.

Areas of Responsibility

Eco-Explorers Afterschool Program:

- Lead environmental education lesson plans for school-aged children.
- Create and prepare materials, lessons and manipulatives needed for program.
- Communicate with parents, personnel, and others to provide information on such things as program activities and student progress.
- Maintain classroom discipline to benefit student safety and an enriched learning environment.
- Ensure that program policies and procedures are followed at the school site.
- Attend monthly team meetings.

Earth Friends Homeschool:

- Co-teach two sections of Nature Lab & Studio classes with 13-15 children, ages 8-12 yrs.
- Assist teachers of the Irvine Days class with 18 children, ages 6-11 yrs.
- Collaborate with cos to plan and implement a nature-based curriculum which includes handling live animals, trail walks, and unstructured nature exploration and child-led wild nature play in all types of weather.
- Create an environment of joy, appreciation, and wonder through word, action, and presence.
- Approach teaching as a facilitator/guide and allow children to take the lead.
- Foster problem solving and collaboration amongst students.
- Regularly observe students to inform future planning and to share learning with families.
- Develop strong positive partnerships with families, students, and co-teachers.
- Regularly contribute to weekly summaries for families.
- Conduct on-going risk analysis and hazard-mitigation with cos and supervisors.
- Authentically reflect and evaluate self-practice and programs.
- Attend and contribute to regular program team meetings and roughly 2 special Earth Friends Outdoors events a year.

Time Commitment

- Full school year commitment, September through early June
- Availability to teach Monday and Tuesday afternoons for the afterschool program and all-day Wednesdays and Thursdays (with some adjustments during Winter) for the homeschool program. Tuesday mornings will also be required to meet in person with the homeschool team.
- Typically, 28 hours a week (20 Earth Friends and 8 Eco Explorers).

Qualifications

- Work experience with children 5-12 years old, preferably outdoors, and an understanding of child development
- Comfort and flexibility in adapting lesson plans as needed
- Willingness to get dirty and handle live creatures (small and large)
- Strong communication and organizational skills and the ability to work as a team
- Basic computer experience (i.e., Word processing, Outlook, digital photos, etc.)
- Current First Aid and CPR certification or Wilderness Survival First Aid and CPR or the ability to complete by end of October, 2024
- Physically able to walk up to 2 miles a day, in all weather, and lift object of up to 50lbs
- Your own reliable transportation
- Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or an approved medical or religious waiver
- Strong interest in natural sciences, environmental and science education, outdoor recreation, or related fields, or a willingness to learn

Ideal Candidate

- Has a college degree or pursuing a college degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, Elementary Education, Environmental Education, or related fields
- Has completed coursework in forest schooling, nature-based education, or similar
- Has on-trail skills in foraging, fire-making, bush craft, and/or similar
- Is experienced with emergent curriculum, planning loosely, and teaching “off script”
- Has a back pocket of ideas for engaging students, redirecting behavior, and activities
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; strong interpersonal skills

Salary

- Part-time hourly starting pay of \$17 an hour

To Apply

Send **cover letter**, resume, and three professional references to:

Stephanie Holzman, Head of Homeschool Programs, and Emily Ludy, Manager of Afterschool Programs,
Irvine Nature Center,

11201 Garrison Forest Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117

or email HR@ExploreNature.org

Please note: Employment is contingent upon completing and passing a criminal background check and fingerprinting.

Irvine is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and do not discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, disability status, or any other applicable characteristics protected by federal state or local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, and training.