

Forest School Assistant Teacher
Eastern Ridge School

Job Description

The Eastern Ridge School is seeking Forest School Assistant Teachers to help guide our outdoor classes at Wolf Trap National Park. At ERS we value the rich experiences that come from being outdoors— hiking, climbing, jumping in puddles, turning over logs and gazing up at the trees. The natural world teaches us about ourselves and what our bodies are capable of. It teaches us about the world around us and other inhabitants we share our space with, from native plants to insects to birds and other woodland creatures. Candidates must be flexible and exhibit a willingness to perform a variety of tasks, from crouching low to the ground to build tiny houses made of leaves and sticks, supervising muddy exploration, or lifting and/or moving up to 40 pounds. Forest School Assistant Teachers will work alongside the Eastern Ridge School's Outdoor Resource Specialist to develop and deliver outdoor programs to school students aged 6-9, aimed at fostering a sense of wonder and inquiry about the natural world.

This is a relatively new and rapidly growing program. An ideal candidate should display eagerness for their role to grow as the program grows.

Responsibilities

- Support a group of 12 students aged 6-9: including interacting with children in a supportive, respectful, and open-minded manner, using positive language and discipline, and making sure students are safe and supported all in a forest environment.
- Assist in outdoor activities with children, provide curricular support
- Assist with and occasionally lead outdoor/environmental activities such as hiking, building shelters, and other forest immersion curriculum
- Spend considerable time with children outdoors daily, in all weather conditions (up to 4 hours).

Specific Qualifications and Requirements

- Undergraduate degree-- preferably in education or environmentally focused field
- Experience working with young children
- Up to date CPR/first aid certification
- Ability and willingness to stay active on the trails (hiking with frequent stops) for extended periods of time
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs
- Familiarity with native plants and wildlife and/or wilderness skills a plus

- Experience/interest in Reggio Emilia, project-based learning, or forest schools a plus
- Experience with students age 6-9 preferred
- A genuine love of the outdoors