

Forest School Summer Educator (Seasonal)  
Eastern Ridge School

Job Description

The Eastern Ridge School is seeking a Summer Educator for half-day nature-immersive summer program. 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. We believe the natural world teaches us about ourselves and what we are capable of doing. Giving children time to explore in the forest is one of the best ways to nurture this awareness.

A successful candidate should have relevant background and experience working with children, and have a genuine interest in environmental science, education, the outdoors, and conservation. 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, to supervising muddy exploration, to providing trail guidance and sharing knowledge about the local ecosystems. Summer Educators will work alongside the Eastern Ridge School's Outdoor Resource Specialist to develop and deliver outdoor programs to children aged 6-9, aimed at fostering a sense of wonder and inquiry about the natural world. Educator will also have the support of an assistant.

Position runs June-August.

Responsibilities

- Lead and manage a group of 12 students aged 6-9 in an all outdoor forest immersion program: 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.
- Guide the children in forest based activities and learning to include but not limited to: hiking, shelter building, tracking, plant and wildlife identification, and building curriculum around the children's interests as they emerge.
- Spend considerable time with children outdoors daily, in all weather conditions (up to 4 hours).

Specific Qualifications and Requirements

- Relevant experience working with children a must, preferably with children age 6-9
- Degree (or working toward a degree) in early childhood/elementary education, child development, conservation, environmental science, biology, or related fields preferred
- 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; familiarity with Leave No Trace principles
- Ability to spend considerable time on your feet and to lift up to 40 lbs
- Familiarity with native plants and wildlife and/or wilderness skills a plus

- Familiarity with inquiry based approaches to learning, emergent curriculum, Reggio and Forest School philosophies a plus