



WOLF RIDGESM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Job Description

Job Title: Summer Naturalist

Department: Program

Reports To: Curriculum Coordinator

FLSA Status: Exempt

Prepared By: Summer and Special Programs Director

Updated Date: November 13, 2024

Approved: Rebecca Meyer

Approved Date: 11/13/2024

Summary

Wolf Ridge Summer Naturalists are a crucial part of running a meaningful summer program by developing curriculum, facilitating outdoor learning, and building community for Wolf Ridge guests. Wolf Ridge naturalists also assist with various behind the scenes functions that make programs happen. Wolf Ridge Summer programs runs from June 15–August 16, 2025.

1) General Duties of a Summer Naturalist

- Serve as role model for students and peers: display maturity, responsibility, flexibility, enthusiasm, and sound judgment
- Work with the Wolf Ridge team to prepare, facilitate, and follow up on programming
- Teach Wolf Ridge classes to audiences of all ages and backgrounds
 - Expectation is that classes are of high quality that require preparation time. Program topics follow an experiential learning model and cover a range of topics: adventure, sustainability, ecology, and cultural history.
- Serve as a liaison to visiting groups on behalf of Wolf Ridge by being available for questions and helping the group with their needs
- Assist in the organizational and structural support that help programs run smoothly
 - Such as food prep, gear room assistance, farm tasks, driving, cleaning, and other duties as assigned
- Participate in staff training and orientation
- Be flexible to accommodate the needs of different programs

2) Critical Skills and Experiences

- Required:
 - First Aid, CPR prior to employment start date
- Ability to work well on a team
- Ability to accept feedback gracefully and integrate it
- Strong communication skills and ability to navigate conflict
- Willingness to learn about the interconnected nature of the North Woods ecosystem
- Ability to think critically and reflect on teaching practices
- Comfort with running and assisting adventure high ropes courses and rock climbing
- Understand and adhere to all Wolf Ridge policies

3) Work Schedule

- Summer programming runs from Sunday to Friday afternoon, with an occasional weekend group
 - Teaching/working primarily is Monday–Friday with 3 separate teaching blocks in a day
 - A teaching block is 3 hours
 - With 30 minutes of prep before and after the class
 - One block each in morning, afternoon and evening
 - On average a naturalist gets scheduled 8–14 blocks a week
 - This includes:
 - being a liaison for outside groups up to 2 times in the season
 - driving/supervising weekend transportation for the summer youth program up to 2 times in the season
 - Time off is scheduled during the work week
 - for a total 3 days every two weeks
 - Can be scheduled as half days

4) Compensation

- \$343/week paid biweekly
 - Includes lodging; meals available when dining hall is open