



Job Description

Job Title: Summer Naturalist

Department: Program

Reports To: Curriculum Coordinator

FLSA Status: Exempt

Prepared By: Program Director

Updated Date: November 24, 2025

Approved: Rebecca Meyer

Approved Date: 12/15/2025

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 run from June 15–August 15th, 2026.

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/activities 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, camper transport, cleaning, camp check in and check out, campfires, all camp games, and other duties as assigned
 - Participate in staff training
 - Be flexible to accommodate the needs of different programs
 - Serve as supervisor of campers during counselor break times or in times of counselor shortages

2) Critical Skills and Experiences

- Required:
 - Adult/Pediatric 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
- 18 years of age or older at time of employment

3) Work Schedule

- Summer programming runs from Sunday to Friday afternoon, with an occasional weekend group
 - A teaching block is 4 hours
 - 3 hour classes with 30 minutes of prep before and 30 minutes clean-up after the class
 - One block each in morning, afternoon and evening
 - On average a naturalist gets scheduled 8-12 blocks a week
 - This includes:
 - being a liaison for outside groups up to 3 times in the season
 - driving/supervising weekend transportation for the summer youth program up to 3 times in the season

4) Compensation

- \$350/week paid biweekly
- Includes lodging
- Meals available when dining hall is open (Sunday dinner-Friday lunch with occasional weekend availability)