



Schlitz Audubon
Nature Center

WEEKEND NATURALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center conserves our land's diverse habitats on Lake Michigan and provides meaningful experiences and environmental education for all. Located nine miles north of downtown Milwaukee on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Center offers six miles of trails that take visitors through 185 unique acres of forests, wetlands, restored prairies, ravines, bluffs and a shoreline beach. Annually, Schlitz Audubon serves over 145,000 visitors and nearly 27,000 children who participate in our nature science programs. Over 140 preschoolers are enrolled throughout the school year in our nationally recognized Nature Preschool. In addition, thousands of adults and families attend our educational programs year-round. The Center building received the first Gold LEED certification award in the State of Wisconsin. Schlitz Audubon is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Weekend Naturalist will share Schlitz Audubon's mission by providing environmental education and information to the Center's weekend visitors.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Serve as Interpretative Naturalist for weekend visitors at the Center and as needed, at off-site locations
- Provide drop-in programs and activities that share information on the natural history of the Center, working side by side with the volunteer Nature Ambassadors
- Provide periodic trainings for Nature Ambassadors
- Assist as assigned with weekend birthday parties and scout programs
- Serve the Center as a bird and birding authority
- Assist with Community Outreach programs as assigned
- Handle and teach with live animals
- Encourage visitors to be good environmental stewards
- Generate enthusiasm for the natural world and its aesthetic values
- Responsible for the health, safety and welfare of all persons in the group. This includes understanding and following safety rules and guidelines, carrying and using first aid kits and two-way radios
- Accompany visitors outdoors throughout the seasons and in all types of weather and terrain
- Participate in fall Wisconsin Master Naturalist program
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in environmental studies, education, natural science, outdoor recreation, or related field.
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental education and the ability to implement and effectively share that knowledge
- Birding knowledge and experience is extremely helpful
- Must have the creativity, flexibility and understanding necessary for working with constituents and staff members
- Must possess a flexible approach to curriculum development and teaching style to meet the changing needs and interests of the visitors
- Ability to quickly respond to unsafe conditions which may put people at risk
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to perform tasks requiring physical exertion, outdoors, in all weather conditions and on difficult terrain
- Must be able to lift 20-50 pounds occasionally
- Ability to communicate with visitors at age-appropriate level

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

(All ages, weather dependent, varies with seasons)

- Mystery Lake/Teal & Dragonfly Ponds – ponding and birding activities
- Observation Tower – tree top birding
- Animal Signs or other Guided hikes – Lake Michigan, Central Wetlands Loop
- Insect Netting – near building and prairie
- Great Hall/Hearth Room – animal meet and greet
- Birthday Parties and Scout Programs

HOURS

Part-time, year-round, 12 hours per weekend. Generally 9:00am-3:00pm