



Schlitz Audubon
Nature Center

NATURE SCHOOL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR – Full Time

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Nature School Early Childhood Educator works in a collaborative teaching team to facilitate an Outdoor Nature-based Early Childhood program based on the phenology of the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center land through an emergent and inquiry-based approach. Teaching teams set the tone for learning as engaged, enthusiastic role models of inquiry-based outdoor education while maintaining a safe, positive atmosphere.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Work collaboratively with co-teacher and other staff to fulfill the mission of the Nature School as an outdoor nature-based program
- Assume responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of all children in the class
- Supervise children outdoors in outdoor classrooms and on Nature Center trails and grounds throughout the four seasons and in all types of weather and terrain
- Ensure that the program operates within the guidelines and standards of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Guide young children to develop their social and emotional learning skills
- Facilitate an inquiry-based emergent curriculum to teach science, math, literacy, and art
- Respond quickly and professionally to unsafe conditions which may put children at risk
- Facilitate communication and positive relationships with parents through regular face-to-face conversations, newsletters, conferences, and occasional programs/event outside of regularly scheduled hours
- Facilitate communication and positive relationships with staff, volunteers, and student teachers
- Work quarterly Saturday or after school hours Family Events
- Teach 3 weeks of summer camps
- Collaborate with Nature School teachers and staff to develop curriculum and review Nature School policies and procedures
- Participate in staff development, training, and continuing education according to Wisconsin State licensure
- Complete a federal background check and fingerprinting before start date and obtain a WI Registry membership, Pediatric/adult CPR and First Aid certifications, Abusive Head Trauma Training, and Child Abuse and Neglect Training before start date
- Organize and maintain indoor and outdoor classroom spaces
- Participate in animal care and handling of classroom pets
- Participate in Nature School bi-monthly staff meetings Friday afternoons
- Develop and sustain appropriate working relationships with other Nature Center employees
- Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

- Degree in Education or related field, Early Childhood Education preferred
- Experience in Early Childhood education
- Interest in being a life-long learner
- A love for teaching outdoors year-round in all weather - rain or shine!
- A joyful heart and playful spirit
- Must have the creativity, flexibility, and understanding necessary for working with children, parents, and staff members in an outdoor, nature-based program
- Effective verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to perform tasks requiring physical exertion, outdoors, in all weather and temperature conditions, and on difficult terrain
- Ability to teach year-round outside in all weather conditions
- Teach Nature School class(es) September through the end of May
- Teach a minimum of 3 weeks of summer camp
- Participate in all scheduled Professional Development and in-service days

HOURS

Non-exempt, full-time 40 hours per/week. This position reports to the Nature School Director.

COMPENSATION

- Pay will be commensurate with experience
- Health, Vision, and Dental Insurance
- Life and Accidental Death Insurance
- Disability Income Insurance (Long-Term and Short-Term)
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Generous PTO
- 401(k) Retirement Plan
- Built-in planning time during work hours
- Reimbursement for outdoor gear purchases

TO APPLY

Send cover letter and resume to Patti Darby pdarby@schlitzaudubon.org with *Nature School Environmental Educator FULL Time* in the subject line.