

Early Childhood Education Specialist

Innovative environmental education and conservation organization seeks a full-time Early Childhood Specialist to join our preschool and forest education team. Friends of Rye Nature Center (FRNC) located in Rye, New York, is looking for a creative, dynamic, experienced preschool/elementary teacher with a passion for science, ecology, and nature to help us continue to develop our forest programs for preschool and elementary aged students. The ideal candidate has a Master's in early childhood education, at least two years of prior teaching experience, is an excellent communicator and team player, and seeks to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards. This is a year-round, 40 hours per week position. FRNC encourages a diverse pool of candidates to apply. EOE.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES:

- Hands-on teaching of Forest Preschool and Preschool Ecology programs five days per week.
- Promote outdoor exploration and connection of the natural world through daily nature walks and outdoor experiences.
- Develop and implement high quality curriculum inclusive of early literacy, STEAM, safety, and age appropriate hands-on activities to be used in an outdoor setting.
- Coordinate with the forest preschool teaching team and other Nature Center staff and volunteers for the implementation of curriculum and day-to-day activities.
- Maintain appropriate records on students' progress and development.
- Daily communication with parents through nature center's web-based tools.
- Lead parent-teacher conferences three times per year.
- Assist with daily cleaning, organization and tidiness of both indoor and outdoor classroom spaces.
- Work with co-teacher to ensure all written materials including but not limited to attendance reports, injury reports, daily class updates, progress reports, and parent information packets, are up to date and completed in a timely manner.
- Lead the Nature Center's summer camp program for preschool students.
- Teach elementary study tours when necessary.
- Act as a representative of the Nature Center to the public and attend all the organization's special events and fundraisers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in the natural sciences, environmental studies, education, or related field required.
- Master's degree in early childhood education, elementary education, or related field preferred.
- A minimum of two years prior teaching experience with children ages 3 to 6 years old in a school, nature or science center, or similar community-based organization.
- Must demonstrate well developed class/group management skills and have strong knowledge of appropriate child development of children ages 3 – 6 years old.
- Experience in the development, implementation and evaluation of environmental education curriculum preferred.
- Previous experience leading summer camp groups and activities.

- Proven experience leading groups and a commitment to teamwork.
- Exceptional talent at engaging preschool children.
- Knowledge of flora and fauna of the region.
- Commitment to student learning, personal growth, and professional development.
- Excellent communication, organization and computer skills.
- First Aid and CPR trained or ability to get certified.

FRNC offers health, dental, and vision benefits and a retirement savings plan to its employees. Salary commensurate with experience.

To apply: Please send cover letter, resume/CV, and three references to Christine Siller, Executive Director, at christinesiller@ryenaturecenter.org.