

AmeriCorps Project Conserve 2023 – 2024 Service Description

Service Description

AmeriCorps Position Title: Environmental Education Instructor [Two Positions]
Host Site: The North Carolina Arboretum Society

Service Term: September 5, 2023 – July 31, 2024

Supervisor Name: Rich Preyer
Supervisor Title: Youth Education Coordinator
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Host Site Mission Statement:

The mission of the Youth Education Division at The North Carolina Arboretum is to deliver educational experiences that create a purposeful, engaging, and experiential approach to science and outdoor education.

This is achieved by providing every student with:

Adventure: Enjoyable, physically active, healthy experiences that get young people moving, outdoors and immersed in the unique natural heritage of our biologically diverse region.

Exploration: Hands-on investigations that challenge youth to make observations, examine data, and draw conclusions about the natural world of which they are a part.

Awareness: Learning experiences that foster an environmental consciousness in youth that will aid in shaping their personal and professional life.

The vision of the Youth Education Division is to cultivate students who are equipped with the skill, knowledge, and ability to achieve in the 21st century fields of sustainability, conservation, and environmental sciences by fostering a value of natural resources and an understanding of their human impact on the world around them.

Summary of Position:

This position is great for environmental education enthusiasts with a passion for working with children Pre-K - 12th grade! The purpose of this position will be to assist with science education efforts at The North Carolina Arboretum. The AmeriCorps member will primarily be responsible for delivering environmental

education programming by educating students of various ages and backgrounds including leading environmental field trip and weekly drop-off/homeschool programs, off-site outreach programs in Western NC schools, hosting programming for young families, assisting with seasonal family events, leading afterschool/library programs and leading environmental awareness-based programs for our summer day camps. Additionally, the Environmental Education Instructor will assist in the care and maintenance of all live collections.

Qualifications – Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Completion of the first two years of college with a focus on education, environmental studies, outdoor education, biology, ecology or a related field.
- Skill and ability in the identification of local plant and animal species is strongly desired.
- Youth leadership experience and good people skills are required; experience working with children in an outdoor setting is strongly desired.
- Applicants must be able to hike at least 5 miles on uneven trails and be able to lift 50 pounds.
- Applicants being considered will submit to a background check.
- Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States, and consent to a criminal history check.

Preferred Service Hours / Weekly Schedule:

Monday-Friday 8 am - 4 pm, occasional weekends

Time off: 1 week Thanksgiving week, 2 weeks during December/January, 1 week during May, 1 week during June/July and an additional 20 hours TBD.

Position Responsibilities and Duties:

CONSERVATION EDUCATION (100%)

- Assist with curriculum development and instruction for our onsite drop-off/homeschool OAK (Outdoor Adventure Kids) program.
- Lead outdoor field trip programming for K-8 Grade students based on established curriculum.
- Develop curriculum and deliver afterschool/library programming for local community members.
- Instruct Discovery Day Camp programs for children in grades kindergarten through eight.
- Lead with curriculum development and instruction for Wee Naturalist for 2-5 year olds.
- Assist in developing and delivering seasonal community citizen science events.
- Assist with instruction and development of ecoEXPLORE as needed – an incentive driven science enrichment program that engages third through eighth grade students in guided and self-directed citizen science activities.
- Assist with all live collections.
- Development of online/print outreach materials that complement science education activities

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Equipment / Software Used: MS Office programs (especially publisher and Excel), Internet browsing (including reporting citizen science information to publicly available databases online)

Physical Demands: Must be able to walk 5 miles on uneven trails with a backpack; stand for 1.5 hours at a time; lift 50 pounds; travel

Transportation Needs: Needs reliable transportation to and from The NC Arboretum for regular schedule. May also be required to drive personal vehicle to local schools to lead outreach lessons.

Setting/Location of Service Activities: Schools and libraries across western North Carolina, The North Carolina Arboretum trails and educational facilities

Other Considerations: Ability to interpret natural science concepts to a wide audience in an informative and engaging way. GIS experience preferred

- Using computer software and online programs for conservation-based education and outreach initiatives, including social networking, written articles and press releases
- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, low-income residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).
- Training, supporting, coordinating, and recognizing volunteers for conservation-based volunteer opportunities.
- Conducting field-based monitoring, assessment, and management of conservation properties, public lands, and/or water quality monitoring sites.
- Using mapping software and other computer programs to create quality reports, management plans, maps, and/or analysis, based on field data

Choose the essential functions of this position:

- Leading, coordinating, and interacting with diverse individuals in field-based and office settings (ex. landowners, students, low-income residents, partner organizations).
- Developing and implementing educational programs and events for groups (presentations, workshops, educational hikes and outings, etc).