



Forest School Summer Explorers Guide

Employment Type: Part-time, Seasonal, Hourly

Regular hours:

June 10th - August 15th

Approx. 8am-1pm, Monday-Thursday - 20 hours

+ 2 Paid planning hours per week

Candidate should be open to working additional hours as needed between the hours of 7:15am-5:30pm in the case of staff absences

Staff training and staff meetings are required outside of hours listed above

NO nights or weekends are regularly required for this position

Position Start Date: June 3rd, 2024

Location: Roots and Wings Forest School, 35320 550th Ave, New York Mills MN 56567

Overview

Roots and Wings Forest School is a nature-based, year-round private school in New York Mills, MN serving children ages 3-12 through year round educational programming in the great outdoors. As a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, our mission is to awaken and cultivate a deeper connection to nature and self, and to ignite a lifelong love of learning, by guiding children through place-based, child-centered education and experiences in the great outdoors.

To learn more about our programs, please visit our website www.rwfsmn.org and review our Facebook page www.facebook.com/rwfsmn

Job Description:

The Forest School Summer Guide will work within our Explorers outdoor classroom as a lead staff member with children ages 6-9 years old.

Position duties include:

- Overseeing the Explorers group of up to 15 children ages 6-9, as well as an assistant
- Activity planning and implementation based on seasonal weekly themes and learner's interests in areas including: teambuilding, nature/science, math and literacy, STEM
- Building relationships with families and children through daily interactions and professional yet friendly communication.
- Monitoring student progress, encouraging growth, recording observations
- Instilling a daily rhythm for learners.
- Providing positive guidance and conflict resolution assistance with learners while navigating social interactions with others in the group
- Daily set-up, break-down, and cleaning of indoor and outdoor classroom spaces is split between staff.



Qualifications

This position requires a blend of qualifications including knowledge and experience working with elementary aged learners, a love of the outdoors, and a sense of adventure. Candidates should possess curiosity, if not deep understanding, of our local ecosystem with a commitment to helping our learners develop place-based natural knowledge through inquiry and play. Candidates should be comfortable working 100% outdoors (indoor space is available during air quality alerts and thunderstorms). A positive, learner-centered approach to classroom management aligns with our organization's values.

Our ideal candidate will:

- Be passionate about educating children in nature.
- Embrace alternative education models.
- Assist in creating a balance of emergent curriculum, intentional activities, and unstructured nature play through planning and instruction.
- Honor our learners as individuals capable of risk-taking, problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, inquiry, and self-awareness.
- Be self-motivated and self-directed with the flexibility to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team.
- Have excellent interpersonal skills, organizational, and time management skills.
- Feel comfortable and confident about meeting the needs of children outdoors in all seasons - physically able to hike, carry gear, and carry a small child if needed (50 lbs).
- Meet qualifications for DHS Child Care Center Teacher in the state of MN (required) - <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/9503.0032/>

Preferred Experience and Education:

- Have experience working at a camp, school, or licensed child care center with elementary-aged learners
- Possess or in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in education, outdoor education, environmental studies, or related field.
- Knowledge of and passion for place-based learning including local ecosystems, flora, and fauna.
- Experience/knowledge in the areas of positive behavior management, emergent curriculum, outdoor learning, play-based learning, process art, coyote mentoring.
- Maintain current First Aid/CPR certification
- Must pass background check before start of employment



Salary

\$15-\$18/hour depending on experience

Benefits

- Sick and Safe Time - 1 hour earned for every 30 hours worked
- 401k available with 3% employee match

How to Apply

This job description offers guidelines for this position, not hard and fast rules. If you meet 75% of the qualifications listed, we encourage you to apply! A love of nature and passion for working with youth are our highest priorities. Please send your resume, cover letter describing your interest in the position, and three references to our Executive Director, Leona Cichy, at leona@rwfsmn.org. If hired, you will complete a background check and fingerprinting before the start of employment.

Roots and Wings Forest School does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, students and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, staff, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors.

Position will remain open until we find the right fit.