

Camp Ocean Pines Position Description

Camp Ocean Pines naturalists are enthusiastic, energetic, responsible people who are excited to get elbow deep in algae, dig through decomposing logs and share their knowledge and love of the natural world with youth through our hands-on outdoor education program.

Naturalist

Naturalist positions at Camp Ocean Pines are full-time seasonal, with hours scheduled according to group attendance and duties assigned by the Program Director. Naturalists report to the Program Director. Naturalists must be able and willing to work a flexible schedule. Naturalists teach science to visiting 2nd through 12th grade students in a residential outdoor setting. Lessons include but are not limited to marine science, forest ecology, astronomy, wildlife, geology and Native American history. Naturalists are responsible for trail groups of 10-20 students. Naturalists also supervise meal times and lead camp activities such as: singing songs, performing skits, facilitating low ropes activities and archery, crafts, and other duties as camp requires.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in science, experiential education or related field.
- Working knowledge of natural history and ecological concepts. Love of nature and spending time outdoors.
- *Experience in* and outward *enthusiasm* for teaching elementary, middle school and/or high school youth.
- Ability to use creative teaching methods and group management skills.
- Ability to organize and implement hands-on outdoor environmental education activities.
- Demonstrated positive attitude, teamwork skills, motivation, flexibility with changing schedules, work ethic, written and oral communication skills, and has appropriate grooming for public presentations.
- Current First Aid/CPR certification.
- Ability to pass background check, TB, fingerprinting and pre-employment drug test.
- Fluency in Spanish, Class B license, lifeguard, WFR desired.

Responsibilities

- Organize and implement hands-on outdoor education lessons and activities for large and small groups both on and off-site in the forest and at the ocean.
- Prepare and present age-appropriate, CA standards based lesson plans for early morning, daytime and evening programs.
- Lead natural history trips by kayak in Morro Bay Estuary and San Simeon Cove.
- Maintain and develop nature museum displays and program materials. Feed & maintain nature center animals.
- Recognize and take action on disciplinary problems according to camp policies.
- Grow the program through school presentations and preparing promotional materials.

Essential Functions

- Ability to lead students on hike over rough terrain, especially intertidal regions, in a variety of weather conditions.
- Ability to kayak and swim in ocean conditions.
- Ability to plan and use creative teaching methods with students in an outdoor setting.
- Ability to observe student behavior and take appropriate management and/or disciplinary steps.
- Ability to lead an evening campfire with songs, skits and stories.
- Ability to take direction and successfully complete projects independently.
- Ability to drive an automobile and carry/lift 25 pounds.

Evaluation

Naturalists will be evaluated seasonally by the Program Director based on this position description.

Remuneration

Naturalists receive \$45 per day session and \$25 per evening session. There is one evening and two daytime sessions per outdoor education day. Occasionally naturalists may be offered an extra day session rate to stay overnight in a student cabin or facilitate a weekend program.