

NATURALIST

DEFINITION

Conducts educational programs in environmental education, natural science, and human relations for students; conducts hikes and campfire programs; and performs various manual duties related to center facilities, animals, trails, and supplies at an outdoor-education center.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Presents instructional programs to students regarding environmental education, natural science, human relations, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum by demonstration and instruction in a natural setting.

Obtains data and prepares training aids for courses in astronomy, botany, ecology, geology, hydrology, zoology, field studies, and engineering design process.

Conducts hikes, tours, campfire programs, and craft classes.

Orients teachers, parents, and students to the outdoor-education facility.

Coordinates instructional presentations with teachers and administrators.

Prepares and maintains exhibits.

Clears and develops new trails and maintains existing trails in safe condition, including clearing chaparral, removing weeds and bushes, and cutting tree branches.

Feeds and cares for animals.

Provides basic first aid, and seeks medical aid for students, when necessary.

Assists in maintaining the center in a safe, clean condition and in opening and closing the center.

May assist in ordering, unloading, or organizing center supplies and equipment.

May drive an Eco-Van to school sites to present instructional programs to students.

May supervise students.

May supervise the center in the absence of an administrator.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Naturalist prepares and presents instructional materials to students regarding environmental and outdoor-education studies, STEM curriculum, conducts nature hikes, and leads recreational activities related to outdoor-education.

The Outdoor-Education Center Manager directs and coordinates the operations of an outdoor-education center.

An Outdoor-Education Assistant (Male) supervises male students during play periods, meals, and at night in the dormitories.

An Outdoor-Education Assistant (Female) performs the same functions for female students.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from the Outdoor-Education Center Manager or the Outdoor-Education Center Assistant Manager and a certificated Coordinator, Outdoor Education. No supervision is exercised over District employees.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

A variety of outdoor-education subjects that may include astronomy, botany, ecology, geology, hydrology, zoology, field studies, and engineering design process.

Acceptable behavior required of students

First-aid procedures

Ability to:

Enforce safety and disciplinary rules

Establish and maintain effective relationships with students and adults

Develop and present instructional materials to students

Lead hikes, recreational activities, and conduct craft classes

Identify and repair trail hazards

Special Physical Requirements:

Strength, endurance, and dexterity to participate in strenuous physical activities, including hiking on mountain trails and clearing chaparral and cutting tree branches

Safely lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 pounds

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency, and successful completion of 9 semester units or equivalent quarter units of coursework, at a recognized college or university, in one of the natural or physical sciences, or education. Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's or associate's degree in the above areas is preferable.

Experience:

Six months of paid experience or verifiable volunteer experience in developing or conducting outdoor or environmental education programs, or youth group activities. An additional 3 semester units or equivalent quarter units of coursework, at a recognized college or university, in one of the natural or physical sciences, or education may be substituted for the aforementioned required experience.

Special:

A First-Aid Certificate issued by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross must be obtained within 60 days after appointment and must be kept valid during the term of employment.

A CPR Certificate issued by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross must be obtained within 60 days after appointment and kept valid during the term of employment.

Water Safety Instructor, and Lifeguarding, Certificates issued by an accredited organization are preferable.

A valid driver's license to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of California and the use of a motor vehicle may be required for some positions.

SPECIAL NOTE

A Naturalist will be provided overnight accommodations to reside at the outdoor-education center during their assigned work schedule, may be required to work variable hours, and supervise students during meal periods.

The class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities or requirements. Entrance requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill and/or abilities. To the extent permitted by relevant law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.

Revised
09-05-24
SD/MJM

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