



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR – FULL TIME

Updated 2.20.2020
Full Time

Reports to: Education Programs Manager

Riverbend is not-for-profit 501 (c) 3, located in Gladwyne, PA, whose mission is to teach environmental principles to children in Southeastern Pennsylvania, through a direct connection with nature, inspiring respect for our natural world and action as aware, responsible and caring citizens. We work with teachers, students and families in the greater Philadelphia region to build environmental literacy and connect people with nature through high quality environmental education programs. We are committed to providing experiences that are innovative, culturally relevant and effective. The Education Programs Specialist is integral to our success as a regional leader.

The Environmental Educator will teach environmental and inquiry-based lessons at Riverbend, neighboring nature preserves and classrooms across the region. Topics can include but are not limited to pond and stream study, watersheds, habitats and ecosystems, geology, aquaponics and food systems. Additionally, the educator will perform husbandry for Riverbend's program animal collection and living aquaponics system.

Key Responsibilities:

- Teach environmental education programs at Riverbend and in classrooms across the region, following Riverbend's lesson plans and educational philosophies.
- Plan and implement scout programs and birthday parties.
- Support the Building STEM Skills through Aquaponics Program.
- Implement evaluation tools using protocol developed by external evaluators and Riverbend staff.
- Seasonally, fill the role of Assistant Summer Camp coordinator.
- Lead groups of Riverbend campers on offsite field trips, both day trips and overnights.
- Mentor summer camp counselors.
- Lead Summer Camp's evening campfire dinner and campout program, Thursdays June-August.
- Maintain program supply and animal care supply inventories. Order and track supplies as needed.
- Provide husbandry for Riverbend's program animal collection and living aquaponics system.
- Train part time educators and camp counselors to properly hold and present live animals.
- Participate in staff training and coaching.
- Collect, log and analyze data related to environmental education programs.
- Communicate with teachers, program leaders and camp parents.



- Write and update education program curriculum that aligns with Riverbend's mission and strategic goals for onsite and offsite programs.
- Daily maintenance of program areas, including cleaning program spaces, trash removal, maintain composting toilets and reporting maintenance issues in a timely manner.
- Other duties as needed to ensure the success and sustainability of Riverbend Environmental Education Center.

Qualifications and Skills

- B.S. in Environmental Education, Biology, Ecology or other related field.
- Minimum 1 year of experience in teaching, professional educational program development and management.
- Demonstrated experience teaching using informal education strategies like inquiry based, place based, project based and experiential learning.
- Experience working with program animals is preferred.
- Experience working with audiences from various age groups, backgrounds and cultures.
- Exceptional communication skills and relationship building skills.
- Creative and innovative thinker.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Google platforms and other educational technology.
- Creative and innovative thinker.
- Solutions oriented problem solver.
- Dependable, with a strong work ethic and self-motivation and ability to work independently.
- Self-starter, with demonstrated ability to take initiative, make decisions and meet deadlines.
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks in a team-oriented environment.
- Experience working in a fast-paced, results-oriented environment and demonstrated flexibility in meeting shifting demands and priorities.
- A positive attitude and collaborative approach to working on a team.
- Passionate about Riverbend's mission.

Working Conditions and Physical Requirements

- Work will be split between an office environment in a renovated barn, offsite classrooms and outdoors in natural areas on Riverbend's property and other nature preserves.
- Manage and teach programs outdoors in all conditions.



- Regularly will need to walk trails with lots of hills and uneven ground.
- Regularly will need to work with live animals including insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and fish.
- No allergies to plants or animals that may interfere with the ability to perform the job.
- Ability to safely lift and carry 50 lbs. for a distance of 25 ft.
- No impairment of sight, smell, hearing, touch, balance, and agility of movement (which cannot be corrected with appropriate device) which may interfere with the ability to perform work.
- Ability to operate a motor vehicle with either a standard or automatic transmission.
- Ability to use own vehicle for transportation to off-site programs.
- Ability to maintain focus under pressure and make adjustments to accommodate program and client needs.

Additional Requirements

- Successful completion of a post-offer background check, including criminal, driving records and ability to obtain PA Child Abuse History Clearance and FBI Fingerprinting.
- Schedule will vary seasonally and include work on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays including occasional holidays as needed for programming.

To Apply: Please send a formal letter of interest and resume and salary requirements attached as either PDF or Word documents to emccool@riverbendec.org with "Environmental Educator – Full-time" in the subject line. Please, no phone calls or mailed applications.

Compensation: Salary for this position is competitive and commensurate with experience. Riverbend offers a generous benefits package including PTO, health, dental, and vision, as well as life, disability and 403b retirement plans.

Anti-Discrimination Policy: Riverbend does not discriminate based on ethnicity, race, gender or sexual orientation and encourages all qualified individuals to apply.