

Job Description- Lead Educator



Half Acre Woods is accepting applications for the part-time position of Lead Educator to oversee and implement outdoor classes for 2-7 year olds in our spring term. The 2021 Spring Term will run January 18th-May 7th with the RSVD mid winter and spring break weeks off. The position will begin with a mandatory training period as assistant educator in the Fall 2020 Term September 14th-Dec 18th. The training will be alongside the founder and lead educator Danielle Diaz. Pay for the lead educator position begins at \$45, pay for the assistant position during training begins at \$25/hr.

The Lead Educator will be expected to conduct outdoor classes with small groups of 4-7 students either on their own or with the help of a teaching assistant. They will be trained to implement class using a unique teaching methodology that we have developed that does not rely upon lesson plans or curricula but instead utilizes intuition and observation to stimulate knowledge retention throughout class. Our classes include periods of developmentally appropriate unstructured play, science inquiry, nature exploration, and a literacy component.

This position is limited to 25 hours per week for a maximum of 1,000 hours per fiscal year.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree preferred, from an accredited college with a major in Environmental Education, Early Childhood Education, or related field.
- At least 2 years of experience as a Lead Preschool Teacher, Summer Camp Instructor or Director or related position preferred.
- Minimum of 2 years of work experience in a licensed childcare center, toddler enrichment program, summer camp or comparable.
- Love of nature, children, and outstanding flexibility.
- Ability to handle the physical demands of teaching outdoors in all types of weather conditions.
- Possession of a valid California driver's license.
- Possession of Pediatric CPR /First Aid certificate within six weeks of hire.

Knowledge of:

- Local natural hazards and how to identify them and maintain a safe learning environment
- Basic understanding of current methods, principles and procedures utilized in child care, enrichment programs, summer camps and/or preschool programs and facilities.
- Practices and methods of customer service; techniques and principles of effective interpersonal communication.

Job Description- Lead Educator

- Basic methodology of organizing groups, programs, and services in a recreational setting.
- Working understanding of Positive Discipline and the RIE Approach or willingness to obtain

Ability to:

- On a continuous basis, know and understand daily class operations and observe safety rules; supervise children; stand for long periods of time; interpret, understand and follow policies and procedures, explain operations and problem solve issues.
- Be outdoors for up to 4 hours and use an outdoor travel potty, nature pee, or Porta Potty as the surroundings permit.
- Lift or carry weight of 40 pounds or less.
- Supervise children outdoors, communicate and maintain boundaries.
- Establish positive and professional relationships with children, co-workers and parents.
- Understand and translate Half Acre Woods methodology into everyday working practices; make sound decisions with solid problem solving methods.
- Respond to emergency situations in a calm and effective manner; administer first aid and CPR.
- Work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions including rain, wind, and heat.
- Communicate tactfully with customers.
- Communicate effectively and concisely, both orally and in writing.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES - Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Employees are expected to maintain the necessary gear and keep their pack supplied.
- Warmly welcome students and parents to class at Drop-off & have parents sign in.
- Engage students in conversation, a story or a game as they arrive to get to know students.
- Communicate and enforce class rules using a combination of Positive Discipline and R.I.E. practices.
- Hike with the class along the trails supervising students.
- Open various food containers and pouches during snack and lunchtime.
- Oversee the “No Food Sharing” rule during lunch.
- Set-up and break down of the travel potty. Assist students with its use, which may involve helping with zippers, suspenders, or rain gear.
- Stimulate interest during class, encourage students to ask questions, discuss and explore.

Job Description- Lead Educator

- Engage students in conversation about what they are experiencing and learning.
- Participate in behavior and group management during daily activities such as hiking, games, story time, snack time, and lunch.
- Maintain positive student relations and follow positive disciplinary procedures.
- Notify Owner of any issues noticed with regard to trail conditions, children or parents, and participate in problem solving as necessary.
- Render pediatric/adult first aid and CPR, as required.
- Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, and clients, using principles of good customer service.
- In case of an emergency going to a designated point of cell service and placing 911 call.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be screened for minimum qualifications and qualifying applicants will be contacted by the Owner/Operator for interview. Final appointment is contingent upon a check of past employment references and passing a Livescan fingerprint and background check.