



## Job Posting: Forest Preschool Part Time Teacher



**The Position:** We have an opening for a Forest Preschool (FPS) Teacher to join our education team at NBNC. The pay is \$16 per hour. The position is for 16 hours a week (not including school breaks and holidays) for 40 weeks. The start date is August 16, 2021.

The part-time Forest Preschool Teacher works collaboratively with the FPS Director and Lead Teacher to facilitate child-centered play and learning with nature. The part-time FPS Teacher will promote best practices of a nature-based early childhood program at NBNC.

### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Collaborate with the FPS teaching team to prepare the learning environment for the day.
- Support children through transitions including dressing for outdoor play, using the bathroom and handwashing, and during drop-off and pick-up times.
- Work as a team member to support all areas of whole child development and promote a nature and play based approach to learning.
- Adhere to all NBNC safety protocols, and manage risk in an outdoor setting.
- Perform safety assessments both indoors and outdoors.
- Uphold NBNC's commitment to promote justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI).
- Provide a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all children and families.

### **Additional Duties and Responsibilities**

- Observe and document student learning.
- Contribute to the preparation for parent-teacher conferences.
- Participate in weekly debriefs with the FPS team, focused on students, curriculum, and reflection.

### **Required Qualifications**

- Meet “Teacher Associate” qualifications as specified in the Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for Center Based Childcare and Preschool Programs.
- Experience and interest in working with children in an outdoor environment.
- Values the natural world and has knowledge of local natural history.
- Willingness to teach in all Vermont weather conditions.
- First Aid and CPR certified, or be willing to obtain before the school year starts on 9/7/21.
- Professional training in nature-based education, place-based education or outdoor education.
- Experience, knowledge, or professional training in anti-bias education for early childhood settings.

### **Preferred Skills and Education**

- BA in Early Childhood Education or Primary Education and hold an Early Childhood Educator License in Vermont.
- Wilderness First Aid certified.
- Knowledge of local Indigenous culture and heritage.
- Experience with storytelling, singing, and nature-inspired art in daily teaching routine.
- Familiarity with NAEYC standards and Vermont Childcare Licensing Regulations.
- Familiarity with state health and safety standards for young children.
- Proficiency in outdoor skills such as fire tending, tool use and knot tying.
- Experience performing risk benefit assessments and seasonal site assessments.

**About NBNC:** North Branch Nature Center connects people of all ages with nature through environmental education, natural history, and community science. More than 10,000 people visit NBNC each year to be in touch with the sights, sounds, and sensations of the natural world, and to take part in our educational programs.

Our 28-acre preserve of forest and fields is nestled in a gentle bend of the North Branch of the Winooski River, just two miles from downtown Montpelier. We seek to impart a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world and share dynamic educational experiences with early learners. North Branch Nature Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Moreover, as part of our commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice, we actively seek to strengthen our organization by diversifying our staff. We encourage applications from diverse candidates, including people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and People of Color.

**Forest Preschool at NBNC:** Forest Preschool is guided by the idea that children need nature and learn with a sense of wonder and enthusiasm when they spend ample time in natural spaces. Our program is modeled around the German style Waldkindergarten. At Forest Preschool, children spend 40-100% of the school day learning and playing outside in rain, shine, or snow, except in extreme weather conditions. Our nature immersion program uses the landscape to support the development of the whole child using a combination of inquiry-based, multicultural, play-based, emergent, and place-based learning. We empower children to be active in their own learning process by supporting each child's unique sense of wonder and paying careful attention to personal interest. At NBNC, we encourage respect and gentle caring for nature, ourselves, and one another.

**Learn more about Forest Preschool at:**

[NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/forest-preschool/](https://NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/forest-preschool/)

**Apply by sending a letter of interest and resume by June 18, 2021 to:**

[Arianna@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org](mailto:Arianna@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org)

