

Forest Preschool



at North Branch Nature Center

Job Posting: Forest Preschool Co-teacher

The Position: North Branch Nature Center has an opening for a Forest Preschool (FPS) Co-teacher to join our education team. The pay is \$16.75 per hour. The position is for 28 hours a week (not including school breaks and holidays) for 40 weeks, with the potential to grow in the future. The start date is August 16, 2022. We roughly follow the Montpelier/Roxbury school calendar. The Co-teacher schedule will include 3 full days per week (8:00-4:00) and 1 half day per week (8:30-1:30).

The Forest Preschool Co-teacher works collaboratively with the FPS Lead Teacher and FPS Director to facilitate child-centered play and learning with nature. The Forest Preschool Co-teacher will also lead Robin's Nest Playgroup once per week. The FPS Co-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.
- Lead Robin's Nest Playgroup once per week in the fall and spring
 - Prepare and facilitate nature-based activities, stories, and songs for children aged 0-5 and their parents/caregivers.

- Collaborate with families to support Early Childhood Education in a nature-based setting.

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

- Meets “Teacher Associate” qualifications as specified in the [Vermont Child Care Licensing Regulations for Center Based Childcare and Preschool Programs](#).
- Holds a certificate in or is able to complete required trainings such as the Vermont Preschool Orientation training and Mandated Reporter training.
- Experience with and interest in working with young children in an outdoor environment.
- Values the role of the natural world in early education and child development.
- Is willing to teach outside in all Vermont weather conditions.
- Is First Aid and CPR certified, or is able to obtain those certifications before the school year starts on 9/6/22.

Preferred Skills and Education

- BA in Early Childhood Education or Primary Education.
- A Vermont Early Childhood Educator License.
- Wilderness First Aid certification.
- Knowledge of local Indigenous cultures and local natural history
- Experience with storytelling, singing, and nature-inspired art in daily teaching routines.
- 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.
- Professionally trained in nature-based education, place-based education, or outdoor education.
- Has experience, knowledge, or professional training in anti-bias education for early childhood settings.

About NBNC: North Branch Nature Center connects people with nature through environmental education, natural history, and community science. More than 15,000 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 all candidates, including people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, parents, and other marginalized groups.

About Forest Preschool: 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. 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, 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:

NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/forest-preschool/

About Robin's Nest Nature Playgroup: Robin's Nest is a donation-based weekly playgroup where families can gather, learn, and play in nature. Robin's Nest offers a community experience in the world of nature and models ways the natural environment can be used as a tool for learning and play. Robin's Nest is a 2-hour program for children ages 0-5 with a parent or caregiver.

Learn more about Robin's Nest:

<https://northbranchnaturecenter.org/robins-nest-play-group/>

Apply by sending a letter of interest and resume by May 6th, 2022 to:
Arianna@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org

Front Porch version for easy copy and pasting: Job Posting: Forest Preschool Co-teacher

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