



Job Posting: Teacher-Naturalist

Compensation and Benefits: Salaried position, with a starting base salary of \$36,360 - \$37,440, commensurate with experience. Benefits package includes health insurance, paid holidays, paid sick time, retirement, and earned time off.

Job status: Full time, exempt, year-round position.

Reports to: NBNC Director of Education.

Start Date: August 29, 2022

The Teacher-Naturalist will work with the Director of Education and the education staff to provide informative and experiential programs for schools participating in ECO throughout Central Vermont; collaboratively lead nature immersive afterschool, homeschool and summer camp programming for ages 4-14; and develop and implement natural history, community science, and other nature-based educational programming as needed.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Work as a team member to support all areas of whole-child development and promote a nature- and place-based approach to learning.
- Provide a supportive, inclusive and accessible outdoor learning environment for all children.
- Adhere to all NBNC and host schools' safety protocols, and manage risk in an outdoor setting.
- Uphold NBNC's commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI).
- Develop, write, and implement lesson plans that align with the Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core and additional objectives as determined collaboratively with classroom teachers.
- Collaborate with regional public school teachers to lead students on weekly ECO outings.
- Work with other teacher-naturalists to plan and lead weekly after school sessions.
- Develop lessons that are child-led and take advantage of local phenology during ECO Homeschool sessions, and write weekly summaries and extensions for parents.
- Develop and implement experiential summer camp activities based on weekly themes.
- Perform periodic safety assessments at all outdoor teaching sites.

Additional Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend education staff meetings, all-staff meetings, and committee meetings.
- Observe and document student learning.
- Contribute to the preparation and implementation of other education related events and activities at NBNC.

Qualifications:

- At least two years experience in environmental education, place-based education, or similar nature-based, outdoor, educational programming.
- Bachelor's Degree in education, environmental education, environmental science, natural science, or related field, or commensurate life experience.
- Professional training in nature-based education, place-based education, community science, or outdoor education.
- Experience with and interest in working with children in an outdoor environment.
- Is willing to teach outside in all Vermont weather conditions.
- Is Wilderness First Aid certified or First Aid and CPR certified, or is able to obtain those certifications before the school year starts on Sept. 5, 2022.

Preferred Skills and Education

- Knowledge of local natural history, including flora, fauna, geology, and Vermont's historical land use.
- Professional training in anti-bias education.
- Knowledge of local Indigenous cultures and history.
- Experience with storytelling, singing, and nature-inspired art in daily teaching routine.
- 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 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, and other marginalized groups.

ECO at NBNC:

ECO is a standards-based nature immersion program that works in collaboration with public school teachers and their students. ECO's goal is to help children and their schools to develop a lasting relationship with the natural world and foster a sense of place and stewardship in our local Vermont communities. ECO works with schools on a weekly and biweekly basis to help meet Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards outdoors while introducing children to the natural community right outside their classroom. We aim to meet each classroom community's needs for learning outdoors.

By using city parks, public lands, and other local green spaces, ECO helps teachers get their students engaged in natural inquiry-based learning. The surrounding environment becomes a co-teacher as we explore the fields for insects and build bear dens in the forest. ECO capitalizes on the opportunities of learning outdoors that support social and emotional learning such as group dynamics, work projects, learning to take care of others and how to take care of our environment.

Teachers, students, and ECO staff spend two to four hours weekly exploring a forest, wetland or field, playing games, engaging the senses, journaling at sitting spots, sharing in a community circle around a fire, and engaging in cooperative learning through guided discovery. We practice these core routines continuously throughout the school year.

Learn more about ECO at:

NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/educating-children-outdoors-eco/

Apply by sending a letter of interest and resume by May 20, 2022 to:

Ken@NorthBranchNatureCenter.org

