



**BUTTONWOOD
NATURE CENTER**
EDUCATE • INSPIRE • UNITE

Job Posting

Buttonwood Nature Center

We are hiring:

Environmental/Early Learning Educator/Naturalist

Open until filled

Overview

Buttonwood Nature Center is a non-profit organization serving the region with outdoor programming in environmental and cultural education, and a wide variety of family events. Activities are conducted at various parks and natural areas around the greater Waynesboro area, including Buttonwood.

The mission of Buttonwood Nature Center is to guide the people of the Cumberland Valley region to become stewards of their natural and cultural worlds.

To achieve its mission, Buttonwood:

- provides curriculum-based environmental and cultural education to elementary and secondary school children,
- supports and conducts research about natural and cultural history,
- provides opportunities for adults to learn about the nature and culture of the region and the world,
- presents programs that inform and entertain the community.

JOB SUMMARY

The environmental educator is responsible for delivering established programs of Buttonwood Nature Center at the Pre-K–12 grade levels and developing creative new programs into the future. The primary role of this position is to work outdoors with school groups and the general public, with an emphasis on early learning programs. This position offers opportunities for growth as our early learning activities increase.

The educator must work in cooperation with co-teachers, administrators, volunteers, interns, and all other personnel of Buttonwood Nature Center.

Availability: Position is part-time, year-round. Educator is expected to attend training sessions and regular staff meetings, to teach 3–5 days/week during school program season and lead other programs with varied seasonal frequency. Hours will include occasional evenings and weekends.

Duties and Responsibilities

- I. Share our region's rich heritage, stories and landscape to inspire and engage stewards of the natural and cultural world.
- II. Teaching Requirements
 - Develop and teach educational programs designed for Pre-K–12 grade students related to Buttonwood Nature Center's environmental and cultural education series. Faculty members assist in the development of educational objectives, course descriptions, activities and materials lists, acquisition and maintenance of appropriate instructional materials and props, pre- and post-class information.
 - Developing and leading nature programs for the general public.
 - Teaching of programs includes: site preparation, setting up materials/props, student instruction, taking down materials/props and returning to storage.



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Duties and Responsibilities, *continued*

III. Administrative

- Attend meetings of Buttonwood Nature Center as requested.
- Assist in the development of Buttonwood Nature Center's long-term educational goals.
- Participate in program evaluations.
- Provide budget estimates for program development (equipment, materials, props, staff time) as requested by the administrative team.
- Perform other activities within the scope of Buttonwood Nature Center's educational programs as needed.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of age-appropriate activities pertaining to environmental education for teaching Pre-K–12 grade students and occasional adult groups.
- Knowledge of innovative lesson planning.
- Knowledge and experience with local flora, fauna, and natural history for teaching in an outdoor environment.
- Knowledge of safety requirements pertaining to teaching in the outdoors.
- Ability to respond appropriately to an emergency or a crisis.
- Professionalism, excellent leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- High energy and the ability to work well with others (staff, children, visiting teachers and parents).
- Ability to foster a team environment.
- Good judgment, tact, and courtesy in dealing with the public.
- Attention to detail, good problem-solving skills and flexibility.
- Ability to work without direct supervision.
- Strong oral and written communication skills. Grant writing experience is a plus.
- Experience working with Microsoft Office, PowerPoint and Excel is a plus. Strong email communication skills (group emails, prompt replies) are essential.

Compensation: Based on professional experience and credentials. Base rate: \$17 per hour.

Benefits and Perks: Paid training, professional development opportunities, membership/affiliation with professional organizations, supportive workplace culture, the opportunity to contribute to community quality of life and stewardship of our natural and cultural worlds.



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Professional Requirements for Environmental Educator/Lead Naturalist:

- I. Bachelor's degree in education, recreation and parks, interpretation, science or related field preferred.
- II. Certification in environmental education is preferred.
- III. Experience with nature-based programming and education in non-traditional settings (nature center, forest school, camps, parks, etc.) required.
- IV. Demonstrated interest in conservation and environmental education.
- V. Must have or be willing to obtain pediatric and adult CPR/AED/first aid certification.
- VI. Must have current FBI background check, Pennsylvania child abuse clearances.

Physical Requirements

Teaching outdoors requires a reasonable level of physical fitness. Educator must be able to:

- walk long distances and pull garden carts with props and supplies over a variety of surfaces and rough trails through the course of a full day.
- stand for extended periods of time, sit, kneel, stoop, crawl, twist, reach above head, climb stairs or ramps, and carry up to 25 lbs.
- be outside most of the day, during all weather conditions.

Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate has a love and knowledge of nature and the outdoors and enjoys teaching students of all ages. The candidate has excellent teaching skills, nurturing students in a gentle and positive manner.

Additionally, the candidate embraces the mission of Buttonwood Nature Center, is a seasoned professional with leadership experience in environmental education, and functions very effectively as a member of a collaborative teaching team. Organization, reliability, flexibility, and a love of being in nature are key to the role.

Desired: Credentials in early childhood education (ECE), child development (CD), or other related educational field. The CDA® (Child Development Associate® Credential™) is a plus.

To Apply: Email the following to: info@buttonwoodnaturecenter.org

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Three references

Buttonwood Nature Center is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

No phone calls or walk-in inquiries, please.

