

NATURALIST

DEFINITION

Conducts educational programs in environmental education, natural science, and human relations for students; conducts hikes and campfire programs; and performs various manual duties related to center facilities, animals, trails, and supplies at an outdoor-education center.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Presents instructional programs to students regarding environmental education, natural science, human relations, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum by demonstration and instruction in a natural setting.

Obtains data and prepares training aids for courses in astronomy, botany, ecology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, mythology, and zoology.

Conducts hikes, tours, campfire programs, and craft classes.

Orients teachers, parents, and students to the outdoor education facility.

Coordinates instructional presentations with teachers and administrators.

Prepares and maintains exhibits.

Clears and develops new trails and maintains existing trails in safe condition, including clearing chaparral, removing weeds and bushes, and cutting tree branches.

Feeds and cares for animals.

Assists in maintaining the center in a safe, clean condition and in opening and closing the center.

May assist in ordering, unloading, or organizing center supplies and equipment.

May supervise students.

May supervise the center in the absence of an administrator.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Naturalist prepares and presents instructional materials to students regarding environmental and outdoor education studies, STEM curriculum, conducts nature hikes, and leads recreational activities related to outdoor education.

The Outdoor-Education Center Manager directs and coordinates the operations of an outdoor-education center.

An Outdoor-Education Assistant (Male) supervises male students during play periods, meals, and at night in the dormitories.

An Outdoor-Education Assistant (Female) performs the same functions for female students.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from the Outdoor-Education Center Manager or the Assistant Outdoor-Education Center Manager and a certificated Coordinator, Outdoor Education. No supervision is exercised over District employees.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

A variety of outdoor education subjects that may include astronomy, botany, ecology, geology, hydrology, meteorology, mythology, and zoology
Acceptable behavior required of students
First-aid procedures

Ability to:

Enforce safety and disciplinary rules
Establish and maintain effective relationships with students and adults
Develop and present instructional materials to students
Lead hikes, recreational activities, and conduct craft classes
Identify and repair trail hazards

Special Physical Requirements:

Strength, endurance, and dexterity to participate in strenuous physical activities, including hiking on mountain trails and clearing chaparral and cutting tree branches
Safely lift and carry objects weighing up to 50 pounds

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's degree preferably with a major in one of the natural sciences, education, or forestry. Additional experience conducting outdoor education programs may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for up to two years of the required education, provided that the requirement of a high school diploma or equivalent is met.

Experience:

One year of experience developing or conducting nature study programs.

Special:

A First-Aid Certificate issued by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross must be obtained within 60 days after appointment and must be kept valid during the term of employment.
Water's Safety Instructor, senior life-saving, and CPR Certificates are preferable.

SPECIAL NOTE

Duties involve variable daily hours. Sleeping facilities are provided at the Center.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill and/or abilities. Management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of the position at any time.

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