Fiddleheads Forest School
Assistant Teacher

Location: Washington Park Arboretum

The University of Washington Botanic Gardens Youth and Family Education programs serve over 10,000 youth ages 2-18 and their families each year through family classes, school field trips, summer camp and preschool programs. Tucked within the University of Washington Botanic Gardens and the Youth and Family Education Programs is the Fiddleheads Forest School, an entirely outdoor preschool for students ages three to five. At the Fiddleheads Forest School, we aim to foster a sense of wonder, to guide rather than compel, and to provide room for possibility rather than attempt to constrain children’s interests to fit within a certain curriculum. Unlike traditional programs, at the Forest School our classroom grows and changes along with its students. This dynamic environment offers an unparalleled setting for the development of self-regulation and fundamental appreciation for the natural world. Our unique, child-driven curriculum addresses the individual developmental needs of every student. Each day is approached with joy and wonder at the wide world around us.

General Duties/Description: This position will assist the lead teachers with all aspects of implementing a weekly, part-day nature preschool program. During the school year, this position will assist teaching classes of up to 14 students Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30AM – 1:30PM while spending the vast majority of that time outdoors, exploring the natural world through age-appropriate lessons and activities. Additional hours may be available for substituting, assisting with school events and teaching in the school field trip program.

Essential Tasks:
- Assisting lead teachers in the creation and application of age-appropriate curriculum, and activities to 3-5 year olds enrolled in a nature preschool. Modeling a healthy relationship with and curiosity for the natural world, and acting in a professional and compassionate manner at all times as a representative of the University of Washington.
- Ensuring the health, safety and well-being of students through site surveys and daily check-ins with students. Maintaining clear communications with fellow staff, interns, students, and their families to achieve common goals and avoid potential conflicts.
- Preparing, cleaning up and maintaining teaching supplies and supporting materials in a well-organized and efficient manner.
- Other related duties as assigned.

Requirements:
High school graduation or equivalent AND two years of experience working with early learners in a formal setting. Excellent organizational skills and ability to work outdoors in all types of weather. Flexible work hours include occasional evening and weekend work. Equivalent education/experience may substitute for all minimum qualifications.

Desirable:
Bachelor’s Degree or formal training in early childhood education, environmental education, botany, horticulture, biology, community engagement or related areas. Creativity, flexibility and understanding necessary for working with children, parents and staff members.

Salary: $15.14 / hour

Department Contact for Questions regarding this position:
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