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Ambassadors of the Environment Summer 2023

Job Description: Junior Camp Counselor

Job Title: Environmental Education Junior Camp Counselor

Rate: starting at \$12.00 hourly

Training dates: May 15, 2023 - May 26, 2023, with variable hours

Camp dates: May 31, 2023 - July 28, 2023

Camp Hours required: May 31, 2023 – June 30, 2023, 7:30am - 5:30pm, Monday to Friday; July 3, 2023 - July 28, 2023, Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 1:30pm with opportunity for additional hours 2:00-5:30pm.

Description: The Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability (the “Center”) works to promote sustainable tourism, raise environmental awareness, and encourage stewardship of the Gulf Coast’s natural resources through the Ambassadors of the Environment Program. The Center has partnered with Gulf Shores City Schools and the Learning Campus at the Gulf State Park to provide summer day camp programming for K-7th grade students during Summer 2023. High school students and recent graduates interested in Environmental Science, Conservation, Early Childhood Education, Sustainability, Outdoor Leadership, and similar fields of study are strongly encouraged to apply.

Position Summary

The Center welcomes current high school students and recent graduates to help inspire K-7th grade students to learn, grow, and play at the Learning Campus and in the Gulf State Park. June through July day camp sessions with lessons, activities and excursions are offered for elementary and middle school students between the hours of 8:00am until 12:00pm and 1:30pm until 5:30pm. The Junior Counselor will assist the Center staff with many different aspects of the outdoor environmental education programs including assisting with environmental lessons, outdoor recreation, team building, gardening, arts and crafts, and excursions (hiking, biking, kayaking) into the Gulf State Park. Junior Counselor positions are part-time (less than 30 hours per week) or seasonal full-time (estimated 40 hours per week June - July).

The Junior Counselor will work under the guidance and direct supervision of the Executive Director, while project-based and education programming work will be conducted alongside and under the guidance of the Program Director and Environmental Instructors. The Junior Counselor will work directly with Gulf Shores City Schools students, youth attending publicly offered day camp programs, and may also work with the general public, Valor Hospitality, Alabama Gulf State Park staff, local government,

and citizen science groups. The Junior Counselor will receive hands-on experience in environmental education, program logistics, and outdoor recreation leadership.

Junior Counselors will also have the opportunity to learn and gain valuable skills as it relates to operations of outdoor environmental education, building relationships with local schools and environmental/NGO groups, environmental restoration work, and program development.

This part-time position will last until July 28, 2023, pending community interest and registration in day camps, and according to the Center's programming needs. Some staff training will be required in late May of 2023. Training will be based out of Alabama's Gulf State Park Learning Campus and at City of Gulf Shores municipal buildings and will have varying hours to accommodate student applicant's remaining school hours.

Essential Functions

- Assisting with environmental science education (ecology, conservation, organic gardening, composting, etc) conducted by the Center
- Assisting and leading outdoor recreation (hiking, games, etc) in a way that emphasizes safety and encouragement of student participants
- Assisting with eco-art and crafts projects
- Assisting with student check-in/check-out
- Other duties as needed and assigned

Qualifications and Experience

- Be currently enrolled in or recently graduated from High School, preferably pursuing or interested in a degree in environmental science, primary education, sustainability, ecotourism or a related field.
- Demonstrate exceptional attention to safety of students, your co-workers/peers, and yourself (First Aid or CPR certifications preferred, but not required).
- Demonstrate the ability to exercise sound judgment, adapt to changing work conditions, and maintain a positive attitude.
- Be a self-starter, yet able to work effectively as part of a team. Experience working with or leading groups or clubs is preferred. Remember that you will be an example for young students and represent the Center to the community! You will be leading by example, so it's extremely important to know the profound impact your actions, habits, and words have on your students.
- Demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all environmental education and outdoor recreation activities.
- Be comfortable working in field locations with often adverse environmental conditions, including heat, humidity, biting insects, and rain.
- Commit to the full predetermined duration of the internship.
- Have an aptitude for working outside and with groups of children.