Riveredge is more than a nature center. Its legacy as a pioneer in the areas of land restoration, research, and inquiry-based education throughout Wisconsin serve as strong foundation to its future initiatives. Today, Riveredge is redefining the role of the nature center in the community by empowering and supporting communities to live in harmony with their natural environment in a way that encourages exploration, adventure, and fun.

The mission of Riveredge Nature Center is inspire, inform, and enable responsible environmental decision-making and sustainable practices by providing leadership in education, preserving and restoring the Riveredge and other natural sanctuaries, and serving as a resource for scientific research.

Riveredge has a 46-year history as a leader in environmental education in the State of Wisconsin. The Center provides science-based, inquiry-oriented, outdoor experiences to learners of all ages. In 2014, Riveredge adopted an “audacious goal” to become the leading destination in the Midwest for learning, discovering, and experiencing the interconnections between nature and society. We will do this through creating partnerships which transform the culture of our formal education systems, communities, and lifestyles. This is an exciting time in the history of Riveredge as we work to pioneer strategies to redefine the role of nature centers in today’s society.

Position Purpose

The Seasonal Naturalist is works as part of the Riveredge Nature Center team of staff and volunteers. This position is responsible for teaching environmental education programs to school-aged students, families and adults, and the delivery of education events throughout the year.

Responsibilities

Primary Responsibilities

• Teach inquiry-based on-site, environmental education programs for school-aged children.
• Teach environmental education programs for evening and weekend public groups.
• Assist in the delivery of new curriculum materials for a variety of environmental education programs for school, homeschool, Scout, youth group, summer and family audiences.
• Teach Summer Day Adventure programs.
• Assist with special education events such as the Maple Sugaring Festival.
• Assist with the delivery of Outreach Programs.
• Assist with the supervision, training and mentoring of volunteer Interpretive and Teacher Naturalists.
• Assist in maintaining educational equipment for Youth and Family programs.
• Assist with staffing the Visitor Center on weekends approximately one weekend day every three months.
• Assist in caring for any education animals.
• Other duties as assigned.
Position Expectations

In addition to the Primary Duties, the Seasonal Naturalist is expected to meet the following expectations set forth to all staff members of Riveredge Nature Center:

• Meaningfully contribute to the Riveredge staff team
• Foster an inclusive and supportive environment through personal actions such as supporting and helping other staff members and volunteers.
• Provide high quality customer service experiences to all guests and volunteers.
• Strive for excellence and innovation.

Compensation

Pay is determined by background and experience.

Benefits & Working Conditions

This is a seasonal, hourly position. Ideally, the Seasonal Naturalist will agree to work at least two days per week. While most hours will take place during the Monday-Friday workweek, some weekend and evening hours are expected.

This position reports directly to the Inquiry-Based Learning Specialist.

Preferred Qualifications

• Bachelor’s degree in the education, natural sciences or related field.
• Self-starter and a well-developed ability to set and meet goals and outcomes.
• Loves working with children of all ages and families.
• Enthusiastic, positive, motivated and likes to have fun on the job.
• Flexible, creative teacher with experience (K-adult) in a formal or non-formal setting.
• Ability to work as a member of a team by sharing decision making while personally assuming and also asking for responsibility and accountability.
• Strong interpersonal skills, organized and professional demeanor, self-directed.
• Ability to physically traverse the Riveredge trails with ease.
• Naturalist skills and knowledge of Wisconsin natural history.
• Experience with Google docs, Google calendar and social media.

Position open until filled. To apply: please send a letter of interest, resume and a list of three references to Sunny Knutson, Director of Education, at sknutson@riveredge.us.
Indicate availability in cover letter.