

# SUMMER CAMP NATURALIST

## Preschool Camp Lead & Before Camp Specialist



**Location:** Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle

**Diversity Statement:** The University of Washington Botanic Gardens strives to embody the University of Washington's diversity statement in everything that we do. We believe diversity is integral to excellence. We value and honor diverse experiences and perspectives, strive to create welcoming and respectful learning environments, and promote access, opportunity, and justice for all.

**Camp Overview:** Our day-camp curricula are designed to promote environmental conservation through education and recreation. To achieve this we focus on hands-on exploration, play and the concept of "learning by doing". Depending on the weekly theme, campers may explore ethnobotany, growing food, art, survival skills, and a variety of sciences from looking at insects to studying phenology. We want to develop a nature connection in our campers through fun, educational experiences in and about nature.

**Job Description:** This position is responsible for 2 different tasks, working with 2 different age groups at different times of the day. First in the morning oversee before-camp programming and ensure the safety of campers enrolled in before-camp care. Campers' ages range from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; the number of campers varies depending on the week but averages about 10. A maximum ratio of 1:12 will be maintained to ensure the safety of the campers. Before-care is a time for children to ease into their camp day with a variety of self-led or group activities. It is the job of the before-camp specialist to create and offer activities for children to choose from such as craft projects, movement, gardening, board games, etc. Following before-camp care, Lead and teach environmental education programs with children ages 4-6, integrating age appropriate activities focused on science, team building, art, camp theme and play.

**Dates:** June 18 – August 31

**Schedule:** Training: June 18-22, 9am-3pm. Camp sessions: June 25-29, July 2-6, July 9-13, July 16-20, July 23-27, July 30-August 3, August 6-10, August 13-17, August 20-24, and August 27-31. M-F, 7:00am-3:00pm (preschool camp runs 9am-1pm, and before-camp runs 7:30-8:45am). Additional hours available for summer camp clean-up September 4-7.

**General Duties:** Plan, prepare, and teach age appropriate lessons, activities, games and experiences for the group and weekly theme. Utilize the Arboretum and surrounding resources to create fun and dynamic educational and recreational experiences for campers. You and one other Summer Camp Naturalist will be responsible for a group of up to 14 preschool age campers and one high school assistant.

**Essential Tasks:**

- Prepare and teach thematic and age-appropriate experiences using your own bag-o-tricks and our curriculum guide
- Collaborate and participate with fellow Summer Camp Naturalists in all daily activities and management of the group, including collaboration with and mentoring of a high school junior guide
- Maintain and ensure safety of children and environment at all times
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with families, campers, and Arboretum staff team
- Foster a fun and educational atmosphere

**Requirements:**

At least 2 years of experience (personal or professional) leading outdoor education programs for diverse youth audiences including preschool-aged children, OR equivalent education. Must be 18 years or older. Have excellent organizational skills, the ability to work as a team member, and strong interpersonal skills. Be punctual, responsible and able and willing to work outdoors in all types of weather. Must be willing to work with and mentor a high school junior guide. CPR and First Aid certification or willingness to obtain (we can help you find certification opportunities). Must pass a criminal background check.

**Desirable:**

Bachelor's Degree OR training in early childhood education, environmental education, ecology, botany, horticulture, biology, or related areas. Experience working with 4-6 year olds. Specific experience working with 4-6 year olds in the outdoors is a plus. A knowledge of nature-based activities, lessons, games, projects and stories to bring to the position. Willingness to give feedback in order to help us grow.

**Salary:** \$15.45 / hour

**Department Contact:**

Send questions, resume and cover letter to:

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