Summer Camp Naturalist

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, 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.

- Components of Arboretum Summer Camp:
  - Preschool camp: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm
  - 1st-6th grade camp: Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm with optional before and after care.
  - Jr Naturalists: High school volunteer program, serving as assistants to field groups.
  - Summer Interns: High school students participating in 4-week internship program that will interact with day camps as part of their internship experience.
  - YES2 Interns: Blind teen youth that serve as assistants to pre-k field groups.

Job Description: Lead and teach thematic environmental education programs for pre-K and 1st-6th grade campers, integrating science, team building, art, and play. Serve as mentors to high school volunteers and interns. Summer Naturalists will lead field groups of either 1st-6th grade or preschool aged campers and supervise and provide activities during before and after care. Shifts will vary each week with the earliest starting at 7am and the latest ending at 5:15pm, with an average shift of 7-8 hours per day when camp is in session.

Dates: June 17 – August 30, 2019
Training takes place June 17-22, 9am-3pm.
Camp runs weekly, Monday-Friday starting June 24th and ending August 30th. Naturalists will work varying shifts between 7:00am and 5:30pm. No camp on July 4th and 5th.

Salary: $16.00 / hour

General Duties: Plan, prepare, and teach age and theme appropriate lessons, activities, games and experiences. Utilize the Arboretum and surrounding resources to create fun and dynamic educational and recreational experiences for campers. When working with grade school campers, you will be responsible for a group of up to 12 campers (grouped by age) and 1-2 high
school assistants. When working with pre-k campers, you and one other instructor will be responsible for a group of up to 14 campers and, on some weeks, 1-2 YES2 high school interns.

**Essential Tasks:**
- Prepare and teach thematic, culturally responsive, and age-appropriate experiences using prepared curriculum and other UW Botanic Gardens Youth and Family educational resources
- Collaborate and participate with fellow Summer Camp Naturalists in all daily activities and management of youth campers, including collaboration with and mentoring of a high school youth of all backgrounds and varying abilities
- Collaborate with lead, administrative, and support staff
- Maintain and ensure safety of children and environment at all times
- 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 OR equivalent education.
- Willingness to work with students from preschool through high school in various capacities.
- Have excellent organizational skills, the ability to work as a team member, and strong interpersonal skills.
- Be punctual, responsible, and able to work outdoors in all types of weather.
- CPR and First Aid certification or willingness to obtain.
- Must pass a criminal background check.
- Must be 18 years or older.

The University of Washington is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status, or genetic information.

**Department Contact:**
Send questions, resume and cover letter to:

Kim Daniel, Youth & Family Programs Supervisor  
Washington Park Arboretum  
206-616-3381, kwdaniel@uw.edu

We will begin reviewing applications in late March and conduct interviews until all positions are filled.