Fiddleheads Forest School
Temporary Assistant Teacher

Location: Washington Park Arboretum

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.

The University of Washington Botanic Gardens Youth and Family Education programs serve over 8,000 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.

Position Purpose: This position will assist the Fiddleheads Forest School Lead teachers with all aspects of implementing a weekly, part-day nature preschool program. This position will assist teaching morning classes of up to 14 students M-F from 9:00AM – 1:00PM while spending the vast majority of that time outdoors, exploring the natural world through age-appropriate lessons and activities. This position is a 28 hour per week role, with typical work hours of 8:00-2:00 M-F. This position starts in early March and is anticipated to run through late July.

Main Job Duties:
• Help 3-5 year olds discover and develop a relationship with the natural environment by assisting students with established activities using items found in nature, while modeling healthy engagement with the environment, positive social interaction and self-regulation, and curiosity for the natural world. Ensure the health, safety and well-being of students through overview, site surveys and risk assessment. 50%
• Co-lead prepared curricular activities that are developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive for 3-5 year olds, incorporating foundational natural science and social and emotional learning concepts as well as emergent interests of student population. 15%
• Maintain clear communications with fellow staff, students, and their families to achieve common goals, support the development of all students, and avoid potential conflicts. 10%
• Assist with documentation of student learning. 5%
• Assist in efficient preparation, organization, and maintenance of teaching supplies and materials including regular cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting according to health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. 15%
• Other related duties as assigned. 5%

Requirements:
High school graduation or equivalent AND two years of experience working with early learners in a formal setting. Have a minimum of an ECE initial certificate or equivalent as approved and verified in the electronic workforce registry by the department. Current child/infant CPR and First Aid certification. Completed 30 Hours Child Care Basics course. 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.

Salary: $17.50/hr
**Department Contact for Questions regarding this position:** Kim Daniel, [kwdaniel@uw.edu](mailto:kwdaniel@uw.edu), 206-616-3381

**To apply:** Submit cover letter and resume to [kwdaniel@uw.edu](mailto:kwdaniel@uw.edu).