



Nature's Tracks
Forest Play

Assistant Leader 2022

Our programs have grown substantially over the past 11 years and we have become known locally and regionally for offering innovative, fun, high quality outdoor programs for 4-12 year olds that connect children to nature, themselves and others. Forest Play is currently hiring part time Assistant Leaders for our spring programs for 4-6 yr olds. The programs are full day programs and run from 9am-3pm on Wednesdays (possibly Tuesdays) and Fridays. We are also looking for summer staff who can assist with our week- long camps. The camps run Monday – Fridays 9am-3pm from the end of June to the end of July in addition to two camps at the end of August. We are also looking for casual staff who would be able to help on an as needed basis (e.g. when staff are away or when we run specialty programs)

Overview

Our Assistant Leaders are an integral part of our mentoring team for all of our nature connection programs. At present, our programs typically have 12 children or less, but can have up to 16 children and three instructors (1 lead and 2 assistants). Assistant Leaders are involved with design, planning, instruction, mentoring participants, debriefing and other aspects of our nature connection programs.

Qualifications:

- Must have a sincere desire to work with deep nature connection mentoring with youth ages 4-6 in an outdoor setting
- Minimum two years formal training (or equivalent experience) in a related field (Example: Early childhood education, outdoor recreation and leadership, wilderness skills, education, outdoor leadership/guiding)
- Minimum one year experience in a related field (Examples: Wilderness/Forest schools, nature/park interpretation, early childhood education/teaching)
- Must have a valid Standard First Aid & CPR certificate (preference given to those with Wilderness First Aid)
- Must be 20 years or older and have a valid driver's license and transportation to Forest Play
- Must provide a valid Vulnerable Sector check (1 year old or newer)

Personal Traits:

- Passionate about working year round in outdoor settings in all weather
- Versatile and able to adapt to changes
- Basic proficiency as a storyteller, song leader and making nature crafts
- Ability to safely use and maintain a variety of tools and gear (e.g. carving knives, saws, tarps, etc)
- Physically fit and keen to run and play games with children in the forest
- Commitment to peace, positive communication, inclusiveness, appreciation and integrity
- Versatile and able to adapt to changes
- Self motivated

- Accountable
- Commitment to joyful hard work
- Ability to take directives when needed

Responsibilities

- Attend a training program in Coyote Mentoring (we will offer several programs during the year)
- Mentor children and youth in deep nature connection and wilderness skills based on the 8 Shields and Forest School philosophies
- Serve as a positive role model for children through a true passion for learning
- Help set up and clean up program materials and spaces in a timely fashion
- Assist with transportation of children when required
- Assist with the design and facilitation of Forest Play programs for 4-6 yr olds and 6-10 year olds
- Support participants' basic physical needs throughout the day
- Attend and positively contribute to high quality planning and debrief sessions
- Report to Lead Instructors and Director of Forest Play
- Identify and manage hazards and maintain a safe environment for children to learn and play
- Set and communicate boundaries for children in a positive way
- Provide equal positive attention to all children in the program and look for ways to help them grow and discover their unique gifts
- When conflict or disagreements arise, commit to following the peacemaker principles and Full Value contract to resolve it in a timely manner
- Keep a clean and orderly environment

The ideal candidate will have:

- Experience with deep nature connection mentoring (8 Shields/Coyote Mentoring OR Forest School) working with children ages 4-10
- Experience with, and knowledge of, wild edible & medicinal plants, tracking, local flora and fauna, aidless navigation, wilderness survival skills
- Experience as a story teller and song leader
- Wilderness First Aid
- Completed naturalist or guide training programs (e.g. Kamana Naturalist Training program or the Interpretive Guides Association Apprentice Interpretive Hiking Guide certification)
- Awareness of stages of childhood development and experience engaging children in developmentally appropriate activities

Benefits

- Opportunity to deepen your own connection with nature, manage stress and discover your own gifts
- Opportunity to learn more about Forest Play programs through direct exposure and experience
- Opportunity to learn wilderness skills including: aidless navigation, edible and medicinal plants, wildlife tracking, survival skills, naturalist skills and knowledge

- Support and feedback for personal growth as a nature based mentor
- Opportunity to work outdoors, immersed in nature and to receive mentoring in deep nature connection
- Opportunity to work with creative and fun life-long learners who love being outdoors
- Opportunity to build relationships within the outdoor guiding and nature connection movement

Position details:

- This position is part time (summer programs run from 9am-3pm with an hour required for planning each program and additional 30-45 minutes per day for program set up and clean up. Afterschool programs run from either 9-3 or 12:00-4:00 with additional time required for set up, planning and clean up).
- This is a part time employment position compensated by a hourly rate. Pay is \$20-\$24/hr depending on experience and other variables.
- We may hire one leader for all programs (Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) or split the days amongst multiple leaders depending on applicant schedules, experience and availability.

To apply:

Send cover letter, resume and three professional references by email to:

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