

Environmental Educator (Spring 2021)

Instill wonder, scientific understanding, and love for coastal ecosystems with students from throughout Alaska and the country. The **Spring Environmental Educator** will co-lead overnight educational programs with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACs) in semi-remote and semi-rustic locations around Kachemak Bay. This person will work alongside the School Program Coordinator and other environmental educators to learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology. Educational programs are well-developed and supported but provide opportunities for creativity and flexibility. Field sites feature rocky intertidal areas of outstanding diversity, a coastal forest trail system, and salt and freshwater wetlands.



Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with youth in outdoor educational settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, and inclusive learning experiences for youth.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment and live and work in a semi-remote location with school groups and other educators.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, boat scheduling, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal, marine, and forest ecology.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and facilitate reflective discussion.
- Commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in environmental education and willingness to understand race, class, gender, and other equity issues to create a more inclusive program.
- Dedication to our vision of healthy ecosystems, engaged and connected communities, and inspired environmental stewards.
- Ability to receive and give direction and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging settings, including first aid and CPR certification (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification).

Core Duties:

- Co-lead day and overnight (2-4 days) coastal ecology programs for classes (3rd grade - undergrad) and youth groups at semi-remote locations.
- Lead coastal ecology environmental education activities such as tide pooling, forest ecology hikes, plankton tow, microscope lab, water quality monitoring, geology, and Alaska Native history & culture. Assist teachers in the facilitation of evening activities such as campfires and beach walks. Model stewardship actions and facilitate stewardship activities.
- Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive learning environment for students. Work cooperatively with teachers, administrators, parents, chaperones, and other CACS staff and volunteers to provide high-quality experiences for participants. Administer basic first aid and comfort homesick or otherwise upset participants.
- Facilitate group transitions from Homer Harbor to program location and back and orient groups to facilities.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with upkeep of intertidal touch tanks, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Peterson Bay Field Station and other relevant facilities, including snow removal, trail clearing, troubleshooting water system problems, and maintenance of the composting toilets.
- Provide photos for social media and advertising, and complete basic office tasks such as program data entry.

Equal Opportunity Employer & Equity Statement

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies recruits, employs, trains, compensates and promotes regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, class, veteran status and other protected status as required by law.

We recognize that the field of environmental education has long excluded Black, Indigenous, and people of color as well as people from working class backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. We also recognize that environmental injustice and climate change disproportionately impact the most marginalized people in society- including people of color, Indigenous people, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ+ people. We believe that these communities must be centered in the work we do and that environmental education will be stronger and richer with more diverse perspectives.

Hence, we strongly encourage people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities to apply for positions with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. You are encouraged to self-identify in your cover letter, if you feel comfortable doing so. Please contact Katie Gavenus (katieg@akcoastalstudies.org, 907-235-1974 with any questions or concerns.

Position runs from March 29 – May 20, 2021 (end date may be flexible).

\$12-\$13/hour DOE + housing is provided

To Apply: Please submit a **cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references** to jobs@akcoastalstudies.org by January 18, 2021.

In your 1-page cover letter, please explain why you are interested in this position and describe the relevant work, academic, and/or life experience that you will bring to this position. Please indicate in both the cover letter and email subject line the position for which you are applying.