

Environmental Educator

Salary Range: \$46,500 – \$66,500, Full Time Equivalent

Job Classification: Regular, Exempt

Minimum Hours Required: 32 Hours Per Week

Supervisor: Community Programs Manager

OVERVIEW

The Estuary Partnership has a well-established education and volunteer program. The education program reaches approximately 5,000 students per year, providing each student with an average of seven hours of instruction. We work with over 150 teachers annually in communities from Astoria to Washougal. Our community volunteer program focuses on plantings along riparian corridors. We have an active summer community paddle series, hosting paddles in multiple communities along the lower Columbia River.

POSITION SUMMARY

This position is part of a team that implements components of the Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, biennial workplans, and six-year implementation strategies for community engagement and information. Environmental Educators design and deliver science lessons in the classroom and at field sites. Educators also provide teacher resources. Educators also organize and deliver community engagement and volunteer projects and projects that manage stormwater. Employees in this position work with a fair degree of independence and maintain regular communication with their supervisor and members of the education and community programs team.

Education programs provide outdoor learning for K-12 students to build science knowledge and improve access to natural areas. Programs involve hands-on education activities applying science lessons in the field and may include an on-water trip, involvement in a service-learning project, water quality or macroinvertebrate sampling, or a nature hike.

Community engagement and volunteer events provide access to natural areas and opportunities for stewardship. They include on-water paddling trips, habitat enhancement events (invasive plant removal, native plantings), clean-up events, monitoring and maintenance, nature/birding hikes, or stormwater management projects with schools or other community members.

All Estuary Partnership employees build and strengthen partnerships and foster collaboration with a variety of viewpoints and diverse interests to serve all communities and give people parity and equal engagement with and in the protection of natural resources.

This position is based in the Estuary Partnership. Most work takes place at schools or in a field setting and requires regular travel throughout the Estuary Partnership study area. It requires occasional early morning starts and some weekend availability (Saturday). This position is physically challenging and requires paddling in various water conditions and outdoor work in a field setting or on the river, in various weather conditions. (Training, including safety training and wilderness first aid training are provided by the Estuary Partnership.)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Two years developing and implementing environmental education in classroom and field settings and delivering community engagement and volunteer projects at local natural resource areas. A degree or course work in a related field can be included as experience.
- Teaching and working directly with students, preferably from underserved communities including communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities.
- Understanding of and working familiarity with environmental education, community engagement, natural resources and watershed management.
- Developing on-line, virtual and in person programs and curricula in consultation with teachers and federal and state education standards.
- Working collaboratively.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrated knowledge of culturally responsive teaching practices or related experiences being responsive to diverse audiences

- Demonstrated knowledge of personal and organizational practices that promote an equitable work environment

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Complete assigned work, implement tasks in annual workplan and meet deadlines, adhere to organization policies and procedures, and respond to feedback from supervisor.
- Communicate regularly with supervisor on development and delivery of programs.
- Design and deliver science lessons, field programs, and on-water programs for students and community members. Lead riparian tree planting projects for students and volunteers. Assist with various aspects of stormwater management projects. Develop and create on-line classroom lessons, virtual learning experiences, and other distance learning strategies to engage students and youth in watershed education.
- Prioritize and engage people of color, indigenous communities, and other underserved populations in project design and recruitment. Identify barriers to engagement and learning for underserved students and community members. Develop strategies and programming to help remove barriers.
- Enter and maintain data
- Develop teacher resources and develop and lead teacher professional development opportunities.
- Meet with administrators, teachers and science curricula staff to discuss programming and assess program and curricula to meet next generation science standards and common core requirements, as well as classroom goals.
- Write project reports, provide project updates, disseminate program or project information, and make presentations on project or program information.
- Participate in team meetings to discuss and advance program objectives, enhance collaboration, and identify resource needs required to complete projects.

RELATED DUTIES

- Coordinate with regional education partners.
- Keep current on emerging education research and best practices, including on national and state education benchmarks, adapt programming to integrate benchmarks to keep programming relevant.
- Integrate education, service-learning, and volunteer programs with other Estuary Partnership programs where applicable.
- Manage and track multiple projects and tasks simultaneously; complete tasks according to schedules and meet project objectives.
- Identify potential grant opportunities, provide information to supervisor and the Community Relations Manager. Draft components of grant applications, scopes of work, project reports, and other documents, and provide cost estimates for supervisor and Executive Director budget development. Communicate with supervisor and Community Relations Managers as grant proposals are developed to ensure internal processes are followed and deadlines met for timely and complete submission.
- Participate in all-staff meetings.
- Represent the Estuary Partnership at meetings, conferences, and workshops and in other public settings.
- Other related duties as assigned.

ORGANIZATION STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

- Place the river and public trust at the forefront. Support and promote the mission and work of the Estuary Partnership. Be familiar with the activities of all Estuary Partnership program areas, the lower Columbia River and the National Estuary Program, natural resource protection, and community programming.
- Include diverse and underserved communities, including communities of color, Indigenous people, and low-income communities, to improve racial, gender, and cultural responsiveness when working with colleagues and partners and in carrying out job duties and responsibilities.
- Cultivate a positive work ethic and inclusive work environment. Exhibit a positive attitude and high level of professionalism. Support Estuary Partnership employees, Board members, volunteers, and partners.
- Provide exceptional service, internally and externally. Adapt and continually improve.
- Attend work regularly and on-time.