

New Canaan Nature Center

Beginner's Nature Preschool Teacher

Department: Education

Reports to: Preschool Director

Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, with weekends and evenings as required

About the New Canaan Nature Center

The New Canaan Nature Center (NCNC) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit environmental education center and sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the world of nature. Located a short distance north of New York City, NCNC encompasses a 40-acre preserve in the heart of New Canaan, CT, that features diverse habitats including wet and dry meadows and woodlands, two ponds, dense thickets, an old orchard and a cattail marsh. Two miles of trails meander across the site. Through a diverse range of programs for preschoolers, schools, youth, adults, and families, the NCNC strives to create a deeper understanding and concern for the natural world through programs and exhibits that stress enjoyable and active, hands-on learning. It is our belief that personal awareness and involvement will enable citizens to make intelligent decisions relating to the future of our environment.

Visit www.NewCanaanNature.org for more information.

Position

The **Beginner's Nature Preschool (BNP) Teacher** is a pivotal role in helping to make the New Canaan Nature Center's Preschool a leader in the country for innovative and cutting edge nature-based early childhood programs. The full time teacher shares full responsibility for one or more preschool classes during the school week, as well being an important staff member of the larger NCNC. Teachers will establish and maintain a safe and healthy learning environment both in the classroom and out on the grounds at all times, advance physical and intellectual competence, support social and emotional development and provide positive guidance for their students, establish positive and productive relationships with families, ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs and maintain a commitment to professionalism both as a BNP Preschool Teacher and NCNC employee.

Working Hours

8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, including some evenings and weekends. Typically, BNP Preschool Teachers are required to work from September 1 – June 1, though these dates may be adjusted slightly due to holidays.

Qualifications/Requirements

- A. Possess a minimum of B.S./B.A. in Environmental Education, Early Childhood or Elementary Education or other related field. Ideal candidate will possess or be working toward a Masters in Environmental Education, Early Childhood or Elementary Education.
- B. Two years teaching experience in early childhood or elementary classrooms, environmental/outdoor education, formal and/or informal teaching, or similar

- experience working with young children in an educational setting. Ideal candidate will have 3+ years teaching early childhood or environmental education.
- C. Be able to work well as part of a team and interact well with colleagues, supervisors, staff and parents. References will be called.
 - D. Possess the physical ability to work and play actively with children throughout the property in a variety of weather conditions.
 - E. Hold or be willing to obtain certification in the following: First Aid/CPR and Epi-pen/Medical Administration.
 - F. Possess enthusiasm for working with children in a hands-on, developmentally appropriate, nature based preschool.
 - G. Passion for our natural world and taking care of our environment, and enlightening the next generation.
 - H. Sincere interest in participation in success and well being of the New Canaan Nature Center as a whole, a dynamic organization with many activities and events happening.

Compensation: Commensurate with experience. Medical benefits, opportunities for summer employment, and fresh eggs from our on-site chickens are some of the many benefits available.

To apply, send cover letter, resume and two letters of reference by July 25th to: (via email preferred)

Beth Skudder
Preschool Director
New Canaan Nature Center
144 Oenoke Ridge
New Canaan, CT 06840
203 966 9577 x16
bskudder@newcanaannature.org