

## **Environmental Educator Position New Canaan Nature Center**

### **Overview**

The New Canaan Nature Center, a community based environmental center and 40 acre sanctuary with forests, fields, ponds and streams, seeks a full-time, year-round Environmental Educator for teaching, leading and coordinating environmental education programs.

The New Canaan Nature Center has extensive programs and opportunities to educate, inform and ultimately inspire people to become stewards for the present and future. Our programs include school, after school, outreach, scout/group programs, adult programming, public/family programming and birthday parties for ages pre-K through adult. Teaching is through hands-on and inquiry methods that encourage exploration, self-directed learning, and stewardship of the natural environment. Topics include, but are not limited to, forest, field and water ecology, animal behaviors and adaptations, sustainability and biodiversity. Our programs and visitor experience is supported by our varied habitats, functioning greenhouse, outdoor raptor exhibits, live animal ambassadors herb gardens, maple syrup facility, honeybee hives, bird viewing areas, discovery room and much more.

### **Summary of Qualifications**

The successful candidate needs to be energetic, willing and able to take initiative, have a positive personality and a dedicated professional with a background in environmental education or closely related field in education. A minimum of 2 years experience of relevant environmental education experience and a valid driver's license for interstate travel is necessary. The Educator will be trained in all aspects of Center education programming. This position is an excellent opportunity to build one's professional experience and skill set as well as take part in the creation of new innovative and cutting edge programming.

### **Salary/Benefits/Schedule**

Position is a full-time, year-round salaried position with medical and employee benefits. Salary is highly competitive with housing provided on site (shared house). This position has a Tuesday-Saturday schedule and candidate must be willing to work non-traditional hours as needed with the overall weekly hours averaging 40 hours.

### **Responsibilities:**

- teach, lead and coordinate Center programs on a wide variety of natural science topics both on and off site as well as special events throughout the school year
- act as lead environmental educators for our summer camp program involving teaching groups, leading new summer staff and coordinating curriculum for the summer program
- working with Education Program Manager, develop new and innovative education programs and activities for public and groups
- support the engaged visitor experience of Nature Center through informal education and public relations as well as upkeep of Visitor Center displays, activities and exhibits
- assist with the support and training of Center intern(s) and volunteers
- assist with care and feeding of captive live animals used in Center programming
- assist with maintenance of interpretive exhibits, education facilities and trails
- assume lead on education related projects throughout the year

**Qualifications:**

- minimum of B.A./B.S. degree or higher, in environmental science, biology or environmental education required
- experience working with young children in a responsible and professional situation
- knowledge of and strong interest in the natural sciences, environmental education and experience with inquiry based, experiential learning desirable
- demonstrates experience and strength in education for pre-K through adult
- sufficiently physically fit to successfully lead and control active outdoor programs
- valid driver's license and clean driving record
- must be comfortable handling or learning to handle reptiles, mammals and raptors for use in education programming

**Please send cover letter, resume and three references to:**

EE Position  
New Canaan Nature Center  
144 Oenoke Ridge  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
[jobs@newcanaannature.org](mailto:jobs@newcanaannature.org)

Applications received until position is filled by August 7, 2009

[www.NewCanaanNature.org](http://www.NewCanaanNature.org)