Student Job Description

Title: Nature Program Leader
Responsible to: Program Manager & Preserve Director
Department: Ecosystem Preserve

Purpose of the Job: To teach environmental education programs to visiting elementary and middle school students during the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

Primary Responsibilities:
1. Prepare for and teach environmental education programs for pre-K, elementary and middle school students using a curriculum specifically prepared for the Ecosystem Preserve.
2. Ensure health and safety of visiting students, teachers, parents, and co-workers.
3. Participate in ongoing training and evaluation of the environmental education program.
4. Collect fees from and issue receipts to visiting teachers as needed.

Necessary Skills, Abilities and Qualifications:

- Possess a dynamic personality and energy and enthusiasm for the position.
- Exhibit a willingness to learn about the ecology and natural history of the flora and fauna of West Michigan.
- Actively participate in initial and ongoing training about the natural history of the Ecosystem Preserve, environmental education and interpretation techniques, and the Ecosystem Preserve’s environmental education curriculum.
- Possess the ability to teach curricula in a creative, enthusiastic, and educational manner to preschool, elementary, and middle school age children. Prior experience working with Pre-K to 6th grade students preferred.
- Strong work ethic and ability to take initiative and act independently in preparing for scheduled teaching assignments.
- Strong leadership and communication skills required.
- Must be very dependable and punctual.
- Be willing to work with others in a supportive, respectful, and friendly manner.
- Willingness to work outside in a variety of weather conditions, in and around poison ivy patches, and insect infested areas.

Time Commitment: 2 to 10 hours a week depending on your availability and when programs are scheduled during program seasons. Fall season is mid-September to mid-November. Winter season is during the month of February. Spring season is April to mid-May.

Benefits: Gain valuable experience teaching and working with elementary students (Pre-K to 6th grade), gain work experiences to build your resume (extremely valuable if interested in becoming an early childhood educator, an elementary teacher, naturalist, interpreter, park
ranger, camp director, outdoor recreation manager, conservation scientist, land steward, educator at a nonprofit organization, curator at a museum, aquarium or zoo), learn about the fields of interpretation and environmental education and jobs available in these fields, learn interpretative techniques and how to teach elementary students in an outdoor classroom, build your resume, spend time outside, learn more about God’s creation and yourself.

**Suggested Wage Level: II**  
**Suggested Wage:** $7.75

**Typical Length of Employment:**  
________ Summer  ______ Academic Year  ______ Year