

What is Being a Program Leader All About!

Please read the following and consider this information before you fill out an application.

What is being a program leader all about...

- Working with group of six to twelve elementary students, program leaders teach a variety of environmental education programs utilizing both the Ecosystem Preserve and the Bunker Interpretive Center as their classrooms. These programs are usually 1 ½ hours in length.
- Program topics and subject matters include trees, critters in the cold, using our senses to explore nature, predator prey relationships, habitats, food webs, animal classification, spring wildflowers, caring for God's creation etc. The best program leaders are those that invest time into expanding their knowledge about the natural history of the preserve and take time to walk through the preserve on a regular basis.
- Public, Christian, private, and homeschoolers all attend our programs. We encourage leaders to share their faith with the Christians students that attend.
- Program leaders are part hosts, teachers, and actors. They have great communication skills and leadership skills and are creative and not afraid to be silly and dramatic to teach a concept. Puppets, storybooks, live animals, and other props are utilized in the programs.
- Check out www.calvin.edu/academic/eco-preserve/programs/school.html for more info about our school programs and photos of program leaders teaching.

Reasons why students enjoy working at the preserve....

- It is fun!
- They love that it is an outside job and enjoy working with children.
- Every teaching experience is different so you are never bored!
- You have the opportunity to learn more about God's creation!
- This position looks great on a resume and provides you with valuable teaching experience. If you are interested in education, environmental education, outdoor recreation, environmental sciences, international studies, non profit work etc this job will enable you to acquire skills beneficial to your future career.

Things to think about before you apply...

- This position requires a commitment on your behalf to spend time outside of work reading through the lessons, practicing the lesson plans, and walking the preserve trails. Amount of time spent varies based on your background and knowledge of the subject matters. I provide 6 to 8 hours of paid training and am always around to answer questions and provide mini trainings about subject matters. You are in a professional role and with that come responsibility for preparing for the job. I expect a lot from you and for the most part Calvin students exceed my expectations.
- It is a job you take for the experience and not for the money though extra cash is always great. :) Please know that I can not guarantee a certain number of hours a week but I try to schedule you at least once a week during the program season depending on your schedule and the teacher's schedules.
- I am looking for leaders that have several times slots open during the following times: Monday through Friday 9:00 to 10:30 am, 10:45 am to 12:15 pm and/or 12:45 to 2:15 pm. If you have class right after the program you are allowed to leave ten minutes early to get to class on time i.e. 10:20 for a 10:30 class
- Trainings take place on Saturdays as a large group. You must attend trainings. Fall trainings for new leaders will take place on September 24 and October 1, 2011. Winter program training will take place on Saturday Feb 4, 2011 and Spring program training will be in April.
- Applicants that are interested in working for more than one semester if their schedules allow are highly favored. Applicants with an interest in the sciences, education and recreation are also highly favored, though I regularly hire students majoring in other disciplines.

The next steps to take...

- Please fill out the attached application, and submitted it to me. The earlier in the semester the better. Completed applications can be dropped off at my office in the Bunker Interpretive Center or emailed to me at jmh46@calvin.edu. As I receive the applications, I will review them and set up a short interview. I usually hire between 10 and 15 students depending on scheduling needs.

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