

Position Description

Field Educator

Classification: Full-time seasonal- Non-exempt

Reports to: Program Director

Job Duration: Mid-May through Mid-September

- dates will be mutually agreed upon



DEC Overview:

Denali Education Center (DEC) is a non-advocacy, for-purpose organization and partner of Denali National Park and Preserve. Our mission is to promote understanding and appreciation of Denali through fun, informative, and inspiring programs. Our 10-acre campus is home to 12 guest cabins, a combined classroom and dining hall, a yurt, and a community events building. We operate week-long adult learning vacations in cooperation with numerous educational groups and organizations, primarily Road Scholar. In addition, we offer a suite of community programs, evening events, lectures, and youth programs.

Position Overview:

During the summer DEC provides adult educational learning vacation programs independently and in partnership with other organizations. Our field educators are responsible for developing and teaching 3-hour classroom-based interpretive programs, leading on-trail interpretive hikes in Denali's front country, and providing 1-hour evening educational programs for tour groups. Through these programs DEC Field Educators aim to inform and inspire land stewardship.

Main Position Responsibilities:

Assignment of work for field educators is dependent on demand for programs. Field educators will most often be scheduled to work four to five days each week. Regular duties include:

- Develop and present in-depth natural history classes (1-3 hours in length) guests that stay on DEC's campus, visiting tour groups, or guests at area hotels. Topics may include but are not limited to subarctic ecology, adaptations, and Denali's mountaineering history.
- Guide interpretive hikes on front-country trails for groups of up to 25 people.
- Travel with groups on their chartered bus into the Park- providing interpretation of Denali and subarctic ecology along the way.
- Assist with set up, tear down, and clean up for programs- some of which include food service.
- Assist Youth or Hospitality staff each week with program preparation, tear-down, or cleaning. This helps ensure campus spaces remain clean, gear is ready for use, and that all staff are familiar with campus resources, and DEC's suite of youth and adult programs.
- Other shifts and duties will be assigned depending on the summer schedule and needs

Qualifications:

- Comfort speaking both formally and informally to large audiences with diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to develop multi-faceted educational programming that highlights various learning styles
- Experience managing large group dynamics including risk management and group travel
- Strong interpersonal skills for use with participant audiences, other park visitors, co-workers, and members of the larger Denali community
- Solid understanding of multifaceted scientific processes and the ability to quickly familiarize yourself with information specific to Denali, Alaska, and the subarctic.
- Ability to have fun, be flexible, and maintain a positive attitude during a fast paced summer season
- Possession of current CPR and First Aid Certification or willingness to obtain.
- Desire to live and work as a productive member of a small remote community in Denali, AK.

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

- Experience in outdoor recreation- leading hiking groups in remote areas preferred
- Understanding or background in Alaskan specific scientific processes examples include: biology, wildlife ecology, botany, geology, natural history, transportation systems, relevant legislation (ANILCA/ANCSA), history, prehistory, and infrastructure.
- Familiar with wildlife etiquette including but not limited to hiking in bear country and LNT practices
- Familiar with Denali National Park, its trails, and infrastructure

Working Conditions & Physical Demands:

- Hikes typically range from 3-5miles in length with 800-feet of elevation change; but can be up to 9-miles in length with up to 2,000 feet of elevation change throughout the day.
- Hikes are on established trails that may contain loose rock, roots, slippery conditions, uneven footing, switchbacks, and short sections of exposed terrain or any combination of these conditions.
- Should be prepared to hike in all weather conditions including but not limited to wind, rain, snow, sleet, freezing temperatures, high elevations, and mountainous terrain- sometimes all in one day!
- Able to lift 50lbs and hike comfortably throughout the day with a pack that could weigh up to 25lbs.

Compensation:

- Pay is made bi-weekly and is commensurate with experience. The starting wage for field educators is \$15.50/hour for presentations, guided hikes, required training, and program development. Additionally, educators will make an hourly wage of \$13.00/hour when performing hospitality or housekeeping duties. Work schedules will vary each week based on need. On average field educators will work between 30-35 hours/week over 4-5 days.
- End of season tips will be pooled and offered upon completion of summer work agreement.
- Housing may be available for a nominal fee (\$200/month). Employee kitchen, laundry, and shower facilities are shared and jointly maintained with other employees.

Disclaimer:

This position description reflects Denali Education Center's best effort to describe the essential functions and qualifications of this job. It is neither an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or qualifications, nor a contract. This position requires interaction with the public. Although maintaining COVID safety is Denali Education Center's priority, there is a possibility of exposure through the assigned duties of a Field Educator.

Denali Education Center is an Equal Opportunity employer. Personnel are chosen on the basis of ability without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation in accordance with federal and state law and in conjunction with the culture of our organization.

To Apply: Candidates should email their cover letter, resume, and three professional references to hannah@denali.org. Inquiries and questions can be addressed to Hannah Noel- our Program Director. Please include the position title or titles for which you are applying in the subject line of your email.