

## Position Description

### Field Educator

**Classification:** Full-time seasonal

**Reports to:** Program Director

**Job Duration:** Mid-May through Mid-September- dates will be mutually agreed upon



#### Overview:

Denali Education Center is a non-profit organization that offers programs that foster appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of Denali National Park & Preserve's wilderness and communities. During the summer we provide educational programs independently and in partnership with other organizations, including but not limited to Road Scholar, Putney Student Travel, and GAdventures. Each summer, our field educators teach classroom-based programs and on-trail interpretive hikes that aim to inform and inspire our visitors.

#### 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. Other shifts and duties will be assigned throughout the summer depending on the summer schedule and need. Regular duties will include:

- Develop and present in-depth 1 to 3-hour natural history classes for learning vacations that stay on DEC's campus and day program groups that include our educational programs in their itineraries. Topics include subarctic ecology, wildlife 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 to the Eielson Visitor Center- providing meaningful interpretation of the Park's ecology and natural history along the way.
- Assist campus hospitality staff to ensure guest and staff spaces are clean and organized.
- Assist program room set up and tear down- some of which include food service.
- Assist with program food service set up such as dishwashing, drink setup, and appetizer placement.

#### Qualifications:

- Strong communication and teaching skills- both formally and informally
- Comfort and experience speaking 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
- Preferred knowledge of Alaska's interior includes but is not limited to: biology, wildlife ecology, botany, geology, natural history, transportation systems, relevant legislation (ANILCA/ANCSA), history, pre-history, and infrastructure. DEC will consider candidates with multi-faceted scientific backgrounds who are able to quickly familiarize themselves with information specific to Denali, Alaska, and the subarctic.
- Strong interpersonal skills for use with your participant audiences, other park visitors, co-workers, and members of the larger Denali community
- 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 become certified through training available as part of the position

#### Other Desired Experience:

- Previous experience guiding groups in remote areas- experience in the Denali area preferred
- Experience in outdoor recreation- hiking and exploring in remote areas preferred
- Familiar with wildlife etiquette including but not limited to hiking in bear country and LNT practices
- Familiar with Denali National Park, it's trails, and roadway
- Experience living in and working as a productive member of a small and/or remote community
- Passion for teaching others about wild places and the natural world

Last Updated: December 2019

**Working Conditions & Physical Demands:**

- Hikes typically range from 3-5miles in length with 800 feet of elevation change though they could be up to 9-miles in length with up to 2,000 feet of elevation change.
- Most of our hikes are on established trails that could contain loose rock, roots, slippery conditions, uneven footing, switchbacks, and short sections of exposed terrain (or any combination of).
- Field Educators 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
- Field Educators should be able to lift 50lbs and hike comfortably throughout the day with a pack that could weigh up to 25lbs.

**Benefits:**

- 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 trainings, and program development. Additionally, educators will make an hourly wage of \$13.00/hour when performing hospitality or housekeeping duties. Availability of work varies widely though on average educators will work between 30-35 hours/week.
- An end of season bonus, offered upon completion of summer contract.
- Private housing may be available for a nominal fee. Employee kitchen and shower facilities are shared and 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.

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.

**To Apply:** Qualified candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and two professional references [info@denali.org](mailto:info@denali.org) and [hannah@denali.org](mailto:hannah@denali.org). You may address your inquiry and any questions 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.