

Position Description

Lead 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:

DEC's Lead Educator is a new position as of the summer of 2022. The Lead Educator will work closely with the Program Director to ensure DEC's educational programs and content are accurate, engaging, and meet current best practice educational standards. Throughout the summer, the Lead Educator duties will be split between management, facilitation and administration. The Lead Educator will help train field educators, provide check-ins and feedback throughout the summer, and act as a fill-in educator as needed.

Main Position Responsibilities:

- Assist Program Director in finalizing and facilitating training. This could include collaborative training for educators and instructors that work with DEC adult or youth programs if and as needed.
- Directly supervise full time and fill-in field educators; including goal setting, scheduling regular check ins throughout the summer, shadowing programs, and providing feedback to ensure growth.
- Manage the field educator and staff schedule- ensuring field educator shifts and program needs are clearly communicated and accessible to all staff.
- Communicate with tour group operators to ensure adult day classes and group hiking programs meet expectations and the previously agreed upon schedule
- Work with youth and events staff to ensure all DEC programs can use shared educational spaces.
- Act as a part-time and fill-in educator as the schedule requires; leading guided hikes on Denali's front country trails, developing and teaching 3-hour interactive classes, and 1-hour educational programs.
- DEC is a collaborative work environment. Staff should expect to work outside of their primary department- such as helping with housekeeping or youth program preparation- as the need arises.

Qualifications:

- Detail oriented with the ability to accurately track, schedule, and manage programs happening simultaneously in multiple locations and with a variety of itineraries.
- Excellent at time management with the ability to selectively switch between tasks
- Desire to work with the Program Director to develop, establish, and refine this new position within DEC's educational staff
- Comfortable managing 2-3 educators. Managing duties include training, scheduling, goal-setting, performing check-ins, and providing feedback to ensure opportunities for growth.
- Ability to develop, adapt, and provide feedback for multifaceted educational programming to ensure it resonates with various learning styles

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills for use with participants, park visitors, co-workers, tourism groups, and members of the larger Denali community
- Experience leading hiking groups, managing large group dynamics, and with risk management in an outdoor setting
- Solid understanding of multifaceted scientific processes and the ability to quickly familiarize yourself with information specific to Denali, Alaska, and the subarctic.
- Desire 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:

- Previous experience working in environmental interpretation or education
- Preference of applicants with previous management experience.
- 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:

- Lead educators should be prepared to split their time each week between administrative duties and time spent on the trail or in a classroom.
- Hikes typically range from 3-5miles in length with 800 feet of elevation change. Hikes are on established trails that may contain a variety of conditions- roots, rocks, switchbacks, etc.
- 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- often all in one day!
- 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 our lead field educators is \$16.50/hour but is negotiable based on previous experience. Work schedules will vary based on need. The Lead Educator is projected to work between 35-40 hours/week over 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 the Lead 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.