

NATURALIST

PURPOSE AND NATURE OF WORK

Position requires conducting natural sciences educational programs for school groups at a nature station and its surroundings. Purpose of work is to increase understanding and appreciation of interrelationships and interdependences in the natural environment and to relay this information to the general public.

Incumbent works under the general direction of the Museum Curator and has no formal supervisory responsibilities but may serve as a lead worker in the absence of the Museum Curator.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK (Note: These examples are intended only to illustrate the various types of work performed by incumbents in this class. All of the duties performed by any one incumbent may not be listed, nor does any incumbent necessarily perform all of these duties.)

Designs and implements educational activities using resources of a nature station building, exhibits and surrounding park, woodland and waterway. Guides walking tours, night hikes, and presents lectures to children and interested civic groups both on and off-site.

Initiates, designs, and implements workshops and field trips independently. Cares for exhibit animals. Performs maintenance on exhibits, nature station building, nature trail, and surroundings. Coordinates schedules of visiting school groups and casual employees, and serves as time-entry designee for casual employees.

Assists in exhibit design and preparation at the nature station.

Performs related work as required.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGES, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of biology, zoology, botany and identification of local flora and fauna.

Knowledge of principles and methods of educational programs or activities for school groups.

Familiarity with state science curriculum requirements.

Ability to communicate effectively with, and manage, a group of school aged children.

Ability to traverse a woodland trail and to maintain the trail.

Basic computer skills, including use of Microsoft suite of products.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, the general public and children.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Completion of a four-year college curriculum in natural sciences such as biology, zoology, botany or related fields and experience in elementary natural science education; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.