



Summer Camp Educator

DEPARTMENT: Education

SUPERVISOR: Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: May 25-Aug. 3, 2022

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Ijams Nature Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer, working to create experiences of belonging for all. In order to further these goals Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, women, LGBTQIA+ candidates, people with disabilities, and people of all economic realities are strongly encouraged to apply.

PROGRAM

Ijams Nature Center is a 318-acre nonprofit learning center and preserve on the southern banks of the Tennessee River near Knoxville's urban center. Ijams is seeking seasonal Summer Camp Educators to teach 8 weeks of onsite day camp for ages 6-12. Ijams summer camps provide children with opportunities to use their senses, collaborate with their peers, and explore natural communities that support human health. Each week, Summer Camp Educators will lead a small group of campers on daylong adventures around the property. A key component of this position is possessing an ability and comfort level to work with children, outside in all weather, for up to 7 hours a day.

SUMMARY

The Summer Camp Educator position is responsible for delivering exceptional camp programs and ensuring the general safety, growth, and skill development of children ages 3-12. Summer Camp Educators are dedicated to connecting children with the natural world, and collaborate with other staff members to plan, lead, and implement high-quality outdoor educational and recreational programs and experiences for campers.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collaborate with co-educator(s) to supervise all aspects of a group of up to 15 campers each day, act as a role model and mentor to all campers, and support positive group dynamics and interactions among campers and staff.
- Co-teach camp activities, including hikes, rock scrambling, bouldering, canoeing, bird watching, wilderness education, team building, caving and Navitat high ropes course (only offered for Nature Adventure Camp), songs, arts and crafts, games, choice time activities, and more.
- Understand, enforce, and follow all emergency procedures and safety guidelines associated with the camp and all program areas. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting all campers' physical and emotional well-being and knowing their whereabouts at all times.
- Appropriately identify and respond to camper behavioral issues, facilitating opportunities for problem-solving as needed and communicating effectively with camp directors and parents or guardians.
- Cultivate a positive camp atmosphere for campers and staff, regularly communicating with coworkers in a timely manner and offering encouragement, input, and positive and constructive feedback.
- Participate fully in staff training and provide input on camp activities, campers, staff, and general issues during weekly staff meetings. Assist in daily activity and program planning to ensure the attainment of Ijams' summer camp goals.
- Perform support tasks for general camp operations and maintenance, including daily camp setup, cleanup, and other duties as assigned. Supervise After Care as assigned.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS / REQUIREMENTS

- Must be First Aid and CPR certified by the first day of employment.
- Upon being offered a position, all potential hires must successfully complete a pre-employment, post-offer background screening and motor vehicle record screen (MVR).
- Teaching, coaching, or mentoring experience with children outside. Ideal candidates have experience in summer camps, classroom teaching, environmental or outdoor education, or natural ecosystems.
- Strong group management skills and ability to communicate effectively with learners with different physical, mental, and emotional needs.
- Positive attitude and a willingness to be a contributing member of a team while remaining flexible to changing schedules or program needs.
- Willingness to receive feedback, grow personally and professionally, and develop new skills.

WORK CONDITIONS

- This position requires a candidate in good physical condition, with the ability to lead and participate in all camp activities, and perform safety and emergency procedures when necessary.
- Candidates must be able and willing to scramble over rocks, canoe and kayak on flat water, wade and walk through water up to 3 feet deep, participate in a high ropes and challenge course secured in a harness above the ground, crawl and maneuver through underground caves, and hike up to 5 miles per day across rocky, hilly, and uneven terrain.
- This position requires being outside in all conditions, and this employee may be exposed to dust, a wide range of temperatures, inclement weather, noise, pollen and allergens, and fumes.
- Candidates must be able to lift, carry, and/or move 15-60 pounds for approximate distances of up to 300 feet; bend; reach overhead with hands and arms; use fingers to write or type and handle or feel; walk or stand for long periods; crouch; stoop; kneel; climb stairs; shovel; work in narrow and/or confining spaces underground, overhead, and at ground level; twist at the waist, shoulder, and legs; and lie on stomach and/or back.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- Pay ranges from \$10-\$11 per hour, commensurate with experience
- Discounts on Ijams Nature Center merchandise and programs
- Free Navitat Canopy Adventure experiences

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND HIRING TIMELINE

- [Complete and submit your application here](#). This is also where you'll submit a resume, and 3 professional references. Applicants are encouraged to include all professional and personal experience that is relevant to this position.
- **Jan. 24-Feb. 25:** Summer Camp Educator applications accepted by hiring team. Ijams may stop accepting applications sooner than Feb. 25 if there is a large volume of applicants, so apply soon!
- **Feb. 28-March 4** and **March 7-11:** Interviews will be performed in-person for local candidates or virtually for non-local candidates. If Ijams would like to schedule an interview with you, the staff will reach out on or before Feb. 25.
- **March 18:** All applicants, even those not selected for interviews, will be notified as to whether or not they are being offered a position.

If you have any questions about the position or trouble with the form, please email Lindsay Whitaker, Youth Programs Manager, at campjobs@ijams.org.