



# Lead Teacher Naturalist (Full-time)

**Department:** Education

**Supervisor:** Education Director

**Schedule:** Full-time (40 hrs/week, Exempt)

- During school year: Tuesday-Saturday (some weekends and evening programs)
- During summer season: Monday-Friday

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** Under the direction of the Youth Programs Manager, this role has the potential to mentor seasonal staff during Summer Nature Adventure Camp (8 weeks)

## **Summary:**

The Teacher Naturalist position at Ijams is responsible for developing, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating engaging outdoor experiential education programs for a wide variety of audiences including but not limited to these groupings: K-12 (ages 5-18), Adult and Family, and Preschool (ages 3-5)

The Teacher Naturalist will provide programming using Ijams Nature Center's educational approach to providing high quality programming in the East TN region that is relevant, impactful, and builds community through place-based, student-centered, and multi-layered experiences.

## **Programs Scope:**

**Youth Programs:** Work with Youth Programs Manager to create and revise educational, service-learning, and homeschool opportunities for youth and their teachers. Teach/lead field trips, homeschool, school break camps, and other youth programming for ages 3-18 years of age.

**Public Adult/Family Programs:** Work with Public Programs Manager to create and revise educational and engaging opportunities for the public - adults and families. Teach/lead evening programs (owl prowl, night walks, meteor shower programs), animal outreach programs, adventure-based programs (river kayaking, caving, bouldering, hiking), community science programs, educational events, sustainability workshops, and natural history programs (fall fungi, plants, edible plants, winter tree ID, birding for beginners, bird banding, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, etc.)

**Early Learning Programs:** Work with Early Learning Programs Manager to support educational opportunities for youth (ages 3-5), their parents, and the preschool staff. Teach/lead part-time Nature Preschool, occasionally substitute for Nature Preschool, conduct animal outreach programs for preschool programs, and mentor preschool staff in natural history topics and outdoor educational strategies.

**Capacity-building:** Work with Youth and Public Programs Managers on select internal projects that will advance and/or prepare the education team for new program offerings.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Advance Ijams commitment to improved cultural relevance through diversity, equity, inclusion in its programs, on its staff, and through its participants

**Sustainability:** Help develop new aspects of our youth and public programs that center around sustainability and community action

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Develop and deliver high-quality youth, adult, and family education programs, including, but not limited to field trips for local schools, homeschool programs, fall and spring break camps, educational events, evening programs (owl prowls, night walks, meteor shower programs), animal outreach programs, adventure-based programs (river kayaking, caving, bouldering, hiking), community science programs, educational events, sustainability workshops, natural history programs (fall fungi, plants, edible plants, winter tree ID, birding for beginners, bird banding, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, etc.), as well as new programs that are developed.
2. Complete training on educational teaching techniques, natural history topics, risk management, and curriculum that focuses on providing positive outdoor engagement, science investigations with natural phenomena, and social and emotional learning programs to all ages in the outdoors.
3. Deliver high-quality programming with live animals (small raptors, reptiles, and mammals)
4. Present and exhibit at community events, education fairs, educational conferences, and other outreach opportunities to market programs and expand engagement opportunities with the public.
5. Be able to speak to and direct large groups of people during dynamic outdoor programming, hike in all weather with a 15-45-lb pack on uneven terrain, while safely managing, hosting, and meeting the emotional, physical, and mental needs of groups of people

### **Other Duties and Responsibilities:**

1. Assist Youth and Public Programs Managers with part-time TN/volunteer training or curriculum development
2. Assist Animal Coordinator with tasks related to Ijams Animal Ambassadors (rehabilitated wild animals); tasks include but not limited to feeding, caring for, handling small raptors, reptiles and mammals, etc.
3. Assist Youth and Public Programs Managers with tracking program participation and feedback, preparing lesson plans for programs, and marketing and advertising of educational programming

4. Assist Director with preparing and tracking the Education Department budget, tracking program participation and feedback, preparing information for grant proposals and reports, and marketing and advertising of educational programming
5. Ability to curate a positive, collaborative, energetic, and innovative attitude and approach to the professional community at Ijams
6. Other duties as assigned

**Education and/or Experience Desired:**

- Bachelor's degree in a field related to natural history, education, outdoor recreation or environmental science or two to four years of equivalent experience and/or training
- Experience teaching and coordinating programming for youth, adult, family, and/or preschool audiences, especially in an informal outdoor setting
- Experience teaching environmental education programs in a museum, camp, after-school program, nature center, or other non-traditional education settings preferred
- Experience teaching with live animals
- Experience working with audiences who are diverse in culture, age, race and physical abilities
- First Aid/CPR certification, or the ability to obtain certification upon employment

**Other Qualifications:**

- Must have the energy and desire to work with diverse audiences
- Must have a passion for nature and the ability to deliver programs in a pleasant, tactful and enthusiastic manner
- Must have excellent written and oral communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with many different partners
- Must be highly organized with strong attention to detail, accuracy and deadlines
- Must have a valid driver license and reliable transportation to/from work
- Must be able to pass a criminal and vehicular background check, as well as a DHS background check to work in early learning programs
- Must have or be willing to gain minimum experience using computers and virtual platforms for internal and external communications; Google Suite, Canva, Facebook, Instagram, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, social media and project management platforms

**Physical Requirements:**

- Must be able to lift and carry or otherwise move up to 50 pounds
- Must be able to work around small children including sitting, standing, running, crouching, kneeling, hiking, walking, and climbing
- Must be able to traverse safely over uneven or irregular terrain
- Must be able to work safely and effectively in outdoor environments in all weather conditions
- Must be able to see and respond to dangerous situations
- Must be able to wear personal protective gear correctly most of the day

**NOTE:** This position will spend approximately 60-85% of the time outdoors, in all weather conditions. While performing the duties of this job, this employee must be prepared with the

proper outdoor clothing to deal with exposure to dust, precipitation, wind, lightening, temperature variance, weather variance, noise, pollens and fumes. The person in this position must be comfortable maintaining a positive learning atmosphere in all conditions, and must make sound judgments about safety.

### **Compensation/Benefits**

The salary range for this position is between \$32,000 and \$36,000 annually. The position offers health insurance including medical, dental, and vision; paid vacation and sick leave; paid holidays; and a 403(b) retirement fund matching program.

### **About Ijams Nature Center**

Ijams Nature Center is a nonprofit nature center located on the banks of the Tennessee River near Knoxville's urban center. Its mission is to encourage stewardship of the natural world by providing an urban greenspace for people to learn about and enjoy the outdoors through engaging experiences. Ijams Nature Center manages 318 acres of land with more than 12 miles of trails, a large Visitor Center, Mead's Quarry lake, mountain biking trails, river access, gardens, and much more. People of all ages attend educational programs, including school field trips, family programs, summer camps, and adult workshops. Ijams Nature Center partners with Knox County and the City of Knoxville as well as with multiple agencies to provide outstanding educational offerings. Visit the Ijams website at [ijams.org](http://ijams.org) for current program information.

### **Equal Opportunity Employment**

Ijams Nature Center is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees or job applicants on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by applicable state or federal laws. These anti-discrimination policies also apply to volunteers and program recipients. Ijams Nature Center provides reasonable accommodations to all applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

### **To Apply**

Send resume, cover letter, and three references (*will not be contacted without notice*) to **Jennie McGuigan**, Education Director, at [jmcguigan@ijams.org](mailto:jmcguigan@ijams.org). The **deadline** to apply is **Feb. 5th, 2024.**