



walking mountains™
science center

Natural Science Educator

This full time, 15-month position at Walking Mountains Science Center, is responsible for serving the organization with a personal commitment to awakening a sense of wonder and inspiring environmental stewardship through natural science education. In addition, the educator position requires dedication to experiential learning, environmental, and natural science education. The Educator coordinates and teaches natural science programming both in the classroom and in the field during our summer science camps and school field programs. While the majority of curriculum taught is preexisting, there are also opportunities to create programs and curriculum for one of the graduate courses and with the Youth Programs Director and Coordinator. Educators report directly to the Youth Programs Director.

Responsibilities

Program Development:

- Organize and maintain preexisting curriculum and lesson plan files and materials.
- Participate in ongoing program evaluation, review, and revision.
- Maintain teaching materials for school and summer programs.
- Assist Youth Programs Coordinator and Director in creating and implementing at least one new curriculum project that meets the Walking Mountains' program goals and objectives, Colorado state standards, and Eagle County Schools units of study.
- During one of your graduate courses, you will be solely responsible for creating curriculum and materials for a completely new summer camp or school program.

Field and Classroom Instruction:

- Work as a team member with other instructors and staff in the office, co-teach during the summer, and lead your own group of 6-10 students during the school year.
- Prepare and teach mostly preexisting natural science and environmental education lessons, field science programs, and summer science camps.
- Lead some classroom, but mostly field experiences throughout the year for all age groups, K-12, in all weather conditions.
- Conduct pre-classroom visits prior to students participating in a field science program for all age groups.
- Co-teach 9 weeks of summer science day camps in the field primarily for students in grades 1st-6th with a few middle and high school programs in all weather conditions.
- Co-lead and teach at least one residential summer camp program based out of a backcountry hut for students in 3rd-8th grades. There is potential to co-lead a high school backpacking trip as well.
- Provide occasional overnight supervision of students during summer camp and for school programs in the winter and spring.
- Attend or conduct occasional evening and weekend programs and events.

Program Coordination:

- Rotate 'Lead Instructor' responsibilities and assist Youth Programs Director with program logistics and coordination.
- Participate in regular program team meetings and all-staff meetings.
- Maintain database of student participation, assessment data, and evaluation.
- Assume leadership role in the 2nd summer of the Educator position.
- Take program photos and collect student work to be used for website updates and development efforts.

Personnel:

- Assist in training incoming Educators during 2nd summer training.
- Mentor incoming Educators in 2nd summer of Educator position.
- Maintain professional appearance and behavior.

Special Events:

- Participate in fundraising events outside of normal work hours (i.e. Reach for the Peak, Fright at the Museum, etc.)
- Participate in community events outside of normal work hours (i.e. 4th of July Parade, Wild West Days, etc.)

Operations & Risk Management:

- Evaluate environmental conditions and make safety decisions that incorporate Walking Mountains' emergency protocol and current wilderness emergency medical procedures.
- Maintain a clean workspace and fulfill facility cleaning responsibilities.
- Assist with upkeep and maintenance of WMSC vehicles and program resources, including first aid supplies, teaching supplies and equipment, field gear, specimens, and library books.
- Safely transport students in 15-passenger vehicles during summer months.
- Responsible for financially covering and maintaining required medical certifications.

Professional Development and Graduate Fellowship:

- Participate in seminars in environmental education, leading to 15 graduate credits in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources at Colorado State University. Credits are also fully transferrable to Prescott College through an existing partnership.
- Participate in these seminars and complete your coursework outside of your 40 hour work week teaching camp and school programs.
- Attend the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education annual conference, paid for and coordinated by WMSC.
- Personally maintain and develop natural history and ecology background knowledge for programs outside of WMSC trainings.
- All other duties as assigned.
- Participate in the following graduate program projects (other projects may be added or substituted):
 1. Development and/or revision of a new school and/or summer program, resources, and curriculum.
 2. Development and/or revision of assessment and evaluation materials.
 3. Development and/or maintenance of program supplies and equipment.
 4. Development and/or maintenance of technological resources (website, databases, etc.)