



walking mountains[™]
science center

Foley Graduate Fellowship in Natural Science Education 2020-2022

Organizational Overview: Founded in 1998, Walking Mountains Science Center's mission is to awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education. As part of a dynamic organization, you are part of a team of like-minded, spirited colleagues who are passionate about the mission of Walking Mountains and the impact it's making in the community.

Position Overview: This full time, 2 year and 3-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 and sustainability through natural science education. The Graduate Fellow position requires dedication to experiential learning, environmental education, natural science education, and life-long learning. The Graduate Fellows teach natural science programming both in the classroom and in the field during our summer science camps and school field programs. In addition to teaching responsibilities, Graduate Fellows simultaneously participate in a Master's program and are enrolled in courses taught at Walking Mountains Science Center and online through the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). Upon successful completion of all required coursework and job responsibilities of the position, Fellows will earn a Master of Arts Degree in Science Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Natural Science Educators report directly to the Youth Programs Director (YPD). The Graduate Programs Director oversees all aspects of the Graduate Fellowship component of the position.

Responsibilities

Teaching:

- **School Programs:** Teach standards-based natural science topics during mostly one-day field programs to a group of 10-12 students in grades K-8, in all weather conditions, utilizing inquiry-based, hands-on teaching methods.
- Teach occasional residential programs including some meal preparation, evening programming and overnight supervision.
- Conduct pre-classroom visits prior to students participating in a field science program for all age groups.
- **Summer Programs:** Co-Teach weeklong day camps and occasional 2-night residential camps focused on science topics, exploration and fun for up to 13 campers in grades K-8.

Program Preparation and Logistics:

- Engage in reflective teaching practices including regular preparation and review of curriculum, development of science content knowledge and ongoing adaptation of teaching techniques following field experiences and feedback.
- Rotate 'Lead Educator' responsibilities and assist with program logistics, coordination and teacher/parent communication.
- Contribute to creation and maintenance of teaching materials for school and summer programs.
- Maintain database of student participation, assessment data, and evaluation.
- Take program photos and collect student work to be used for website updates and development efforts.
- Attend or conduct occasional evening and weekend programs and events.

Learning Community:

- Work as a productive team member with other educator/fellows, instructors and coordinators in the office to organize, develop and improve curriculum and materials utilizing an ongoing program evaluation, curriculum review, and revision process.
- Contribute to a positive team dynamic within the graduate cohort and larger youth programs department.
- Be a productive member of a supportive learning community by sharing your knowledge and expertise and being willing to learn from others.

Curriculum Development:

- Assist in ongoing program evaluation, curriculum review, and revision based on Walking Mountains' program goals and objectives, Eagle County School's needs, Colorado Academic Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.
- Develop or revise existing summer camp or school field curricula as part of graduate coursework.

Special Events:

- Participate in organization-wide fundraising events outside of normal work hours (i.e. A Taste of Nature, 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 a combination of face to face and online courses in science and environmental education, leading to 30 graduate credits and a Master of Arts Degree in Science Education
- Participate in all classes and complete your coursework outside of your 40 hour work week teaching camp and school programs.
- Participate in 5 weeks of staff training and professional development opportunities.
- Attend the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education annual conference, paid for and coordinated by WMSC.
- Engage in ongoing reflective teaching practices including regular discussion, exploration of interesting topics, and sharing of new ideas and insights.
- Conduct an action research project as part of the degree program that is in line with the goals and mission of Walking Mountains Science Center.

All other duties as assigned.