

Nature Preschool at Woodend

Preschool Classroom Co-Teacher

Position Description

Job Title: Nature Preschool Co-Teacher

Department: Environmental Education

Supervisor: Preschool Director

FLSA Status: Nonexempt

Standard Hours: 37 per week, 42 weeks

About Our Organization

Nature Forward (formerly the Audubon Naturalist Society) is the oldest independent environmental organization in the Washington, DC region. A pioneer in linking conservation activities with environmental education, Nature Forward seeks to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it. We inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

Position Summary

The Nature Preschool at Woodend serves children ages 3-5 years old on a 40-acre nature sanctuary in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Our teaching team is seeking a highly motivated, creative, and dedicated educator to join the teaching team for the 2024-2025 school year. The ideal candidate has an interest in and appreciation for nature, as well as a preference for teaching outdoors. The Nature Preschool Co-Teacher will provide a safe, warm, and caring learning environment where children are comfortable taking risks. The Nature Preschool Co-Teacher will be one half of a co-teaching team that develops and implements multi-sensory, hands on, and nature-based curriculum. They must be eager to employ nature-based, emergent learning led by children, and facilitate warm, professional relationships with the families in our community.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for young children in both indoor and outdoor settings. Assist children with personal hygiene practices like handwashing, etc.
- Work with teaching teams to develop and implement a nature-based curriculum that reflects the needs and interests of the children. Participate in daily debriefs with co-teacher before and after class.
- Spend significant time outdoors with children during all seasons, interacting, guiding, and playing with them at their physical level. Apply developmentally appropriate practices to all interactions with children, including reflective listening, modeling social/emotional norms, and promoting self-regulation.
- Observe and record children's learning using notes, assessments, portfolios, and documentation panels that illustrate physical, social/emotional, linguistic, and cognitive development. Share professional observations with families as needed and requested.



- Maintain regular and professional communication with teaching teams and families, including updating class photo albums, writing weekly emails, leading parent-teacher conferences twice a year, and attending weekly staff meetings.
- Follow safety and operational protocols established by Nature Forward and The Nature Preschool at Woodend, as well as the Maryland State department for Education.
- Help maintain the physical environment by contributing to housekeeping tasks as needed, keep classrooms organized and inviting, and maintain indoor and outdoor areas of the school.
- Set personal and professional goals, seeking opportunities to develop skills in focus areas. Maintain MSDE requirement for 12 clock hours of professional development per year.
- Acknowledge and respect diversity, and promote inclusion of all people regardless of ethnic, cultural, linguistic backgrounds, gender identity, sexual orientation, and people with disabilities.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's degree in science, education, or related fields from an accredited university.
- Minimum two years experience working with children 3-5 years old.
- 90-hour Preschool Certificate, in-progress or completed
- Adult and Infant CPR/First Aid Certificate
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and ability to work cooperatively.
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills and effective communication strategies.
- Ability to stand for long periods, as well as crouching down to the child's level and sitting on the ground. Ability to lift and carry up to 40 lbs., and hike moderate distances over uneven terrain wearing a trail bag (backpack).

Hours and Compensation

Monday through Thursday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Friday 8:00am-2:00pm.

Contract runs from August 26th, 2024 to June 13th, 2025

Salary ranges between \$38,000 - \$42,000, commensurate with experience.

To Apply

Send resume and cover letter to Nature Preschool Director: rose.brusaferro@natureforward.org. More than one position may be available.

Nature Forward does not discriminate in hiring or contracting on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristic. Nature Forward is committed to modeling inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility as best practices for the region's environmental community in our Strategic Plan. People of color and those from economically disadvantaged communities are particularly encouraged to apply.