

**Heartland Forest Nature Experience
Job Description**

Forest School Educator - Part Time

Reports To: Forest Discovery Program Director
Hours: 7 - 9 hours Wednesdays (may vary during peak times with additional hours/ days)
Rate: \$17 hour – contract position
Start Date: ASAP

Summary:

The Forest School Educator will join our team in facilitating our Nature School program on Wednesdays. The program runs 9 – 4 with early and late care an hour before and after. This is a play-based, outdoor, all-weather program for children ages 4-6. We maintain a 1:6 educator to student ratio. Our program is child-led and follows an emergent curriculum based on the seasons, the children’s interests and the provocations found in nature following Forest School Canada’s guidelines. More information on Heartland Forest and our program can be found on our website at heartlandforest.org. Part time Educators may also be asked to participate in delivery of our environmental education programs for visiting schools, and special events.

Responsibilities:

- Help to plan and implement a diverse Forest School program for a variety of ages
- Responsible for education, care and safety of children within a 1:6 ratio
- Ensure the safety of all children while they are participating in a wide variety of activities including, but not limited to, forest play, hiking, climbing trees, creek play, cooking fires, tool work
- Responsible for effective communication with parents regarding their child’s participation in the program
- Working with co-educators to plan, prepare and implement activities based on the children’s interests, seasons and current “happenings” in the forest
- Debriefing with co-educators at the end of the day
- Show an interest in learning, or an understanding of, outdoor skills such as tarp set-up, knot tying, fire building, tool skills, shelter building, environmental education
- Willingness to attend educator meetings, training, parent meetings and Forest School related events
- Provide site support including set up and maintenance of all program areas and equipment as well as assisting the site service staff in general site maintenance
- Maintain continuity and quality in programs by working cooperatively with all groups and other non-program staff members
- Assist with other duties as required

Competencies:

- Deals courteously with incidents, problems and emergencies as outlined by departmental policies and procedures
- An understanding of the Forest School model and philosophies
- Understand the value of risky play, emergent learning philosophies and play/place based learning

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Competencies, continued:

- Familiar with local flora, fauna and a willingness and passion for environmental education
- Demonstrated knowledge of environmental education student curriculum expectations
- Ability to plan and organize and work effectively within a team environment
- Excellent verbal communication skills required, along with good organizational skills

Education, Experience, Licenses and Certificates:

- RECE / OCT primary or equivalent preferred
- First Aid and CPR
- Clear vulnerable sector screening
- Valid Ontario G License with a good driving record and access to a vehicle required
- Experience working in a forest school, elementary school, daycare program preferred

Safety:

- Supports the corporate Occupational Health & Safety initiatives by incorporating safe work practices into daily work routine
- Reports any unsafe conditions or observed unsafe work practices to Forest Discovery Director

Work Conditions:

- Required to work outdoors, in a variety of weather conditions and able to walk distances over uneven terrain
- Able to educate with enthusiasm regardless of weather conditions
- May be required to work some evenings and weekends
- Some physical labor involved (backpacking and some lifting involved, for example: moving firewood, chairs, tables and light landscaping)

Note: This job profile indicates the general nature and level of work expected of the incumbent. It is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities required of the incumbent. The incumbent may be asked to perform other duties, which may be assigned from time to time.

Incumbent's Signature

Date

Director's Signature

Date