

Seasonal Naturalist Job Description

As an AmeriCorps 4-H Naturalist, with Polk County Conservation, you are a part of a statewide service network that brings exciting and educational experience to Iowa Youth! You will deliver high-level positive youth development activities to youth in your community using research-based curriculums in STEM, Outdoor Recreation, and Environmental Education. No matter what your passion area or background, your service WILL make a difference in a young person's life.

Illustrative Examples of Duties:

1. Conducts environmental education and outdoor recreational programs for schools, youth groups, and the general public.
2. Assists with maintenance and construction of indoor and outdoor exhibits, including live animal displays.
3. Plans audience appropriate educational programs and activities related to natural resource management, conservation, ecology, recreation, cultural heritage, and other environmental topics.
4. Maintains records on programs.
5. Assists with the development, coordination, and implementation of extended programs like camps.
6. Performs related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of modern trends in conservation and environmental education.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of conservation, ecology, interpretation, and Iowa's natural heritage.
- Excellent public speaking skills.
- Experience teaching outdoor skills.
- Ability to learn departmental software programs and related audio visual technology.
- Ability to work flexible hours including evenings, weekends, holidays, and irregular hours
- Ability to read, write, edit, and communicate effectively in a variety of methods, including public speaking and program delivery.
- Ability to work independently and demonstrate a good work ethic.
- Ability to adapt in a very dynamic work setting.

- Ability to frequently lift up to 30 pounds.
- Ability to work in a variety of weather conditions and walk or stand for prolonged periods.
- Ability to establish and maintain satisfactory working relationships with supervisors, other County employees, volunteers, and the general public using courtesy, patience, and tact.

Training and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree or currently enrolled at an accredited college or university with major course work in environmental education, interpretation, recreation, ecology, or related earth biological science.
- Experience in development and presentation of environmental or interpretive programs.

Requirements:

- Ability to pass pre-employment background check
- Pre-employment drug screening may be required
- Must have or obtain a valid Driver's License and First Aid Certification
- Candidate must be 19 or older to apply

Two Seasonal Naturalists will serve with Polk County Conservation as part of the Iowa AmeriCorps 4-H Environmental Education Program. AmeriCorps members develop skills that build a strong, leadership-packed résumé, earn a living stipend (\$4,500 total), and receive a Segal Education Award upon completion (\$1,718.25) to pay for higher education or qualified student loans. These positions are quarter time members who will serve a minimum of 450 hours over 12 weeks, working approximately 40 hours per week.

Please email resume & cover letter to patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov prior to December 17th to apply.