



## Summer Garden Guide

### Preschool Camp Assistant & After-Camp Specialist

**Location:** Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle

**Camp Overview:** Our day-camp curricula are designed to promote environmental conservation through education and recreation. To achieve this we focus on hands-on exploration, play and the concept of “learning by doing”. Depending on the weekly theme, campers may explore ethnobotany, growing food, art, survival skills, and a variety of sciences from looking at insects to studying phenology. We want to develop a nature connection in our campers through fun, educational experiences in and about nature.

**Job Description:** This position is responsible for 2 different tasks, working with 2 different age groups at different times of the day. First in the morning lead and teach environmental education programs with children ages 4-6, integrating age appropriate activities focused on science, team building, art, camp theme and play. Following the Summer Camp experience for the younger children, oversee after-camp programming and ensure the safety of campers enrolled in after-camp care. Campers’ ages range from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; the number of campers varies depending on the week but averages about 10. A maximum ratio of 1:12 will be maintained to ensure the safety of the campers. After a full day of camp, after-care is a time for children to unwind and have more choice in how they spend their time. It is the job of the after-camp specialist to create and offer activities for children to choose from such as craft projects, movement, gardening, board games, running games, etc.

**Dates:** June 20 – September 2

**Schedule:** Training: June 20-24, 9am-3pm. Camp sessions: June 27-July 1, July 5-8, July 11-15, July 18-22, July 25-29, August 1-5, August 8-12, August 15-19, August 22-26, and August 29-September 2. M-F, 8:45am-5:15pm (preschool camp runs 9am-1pm, and after-camp runs 3-5pm). Additional hours available for summer camp clean-up September 6-9.

**General Duties:** Work with Preschool Camp Lead to supervise preschool camp and lead age appropriate lessons, activities, games and experiences for the group and weekly theme. Plan and prepare appropriate activities, games, crafts, choices and experiences for the ages represented in after care. Utilize the Arboretum and surrounding resources to create fun and dynamic educational experiences for campers. The position will also assist the lead staff in coordinating with parents/caregivers and signing out children upon pick up.

**Essential Tasks:**

- Prepare and implement thematic and age-appropriate experiences using your own bag-o-tricks and our curriculum guide
- Collaborate and participate with fellow Summer Garden Guide in all daily activities and management of the group, including collaboration with and mentoring of a high school junior garden guide
- Collaborate with lead staff
- Maintain and ensure safety of children and environment at all times
- Collaborate and communicate effectively with families, campers, and Arboretum staff
- Foster a fun and educational atmosphere

**Requirements:**

At least 2 years of experience leading outdoor education programs for diverse audiences, or equivalent education, including preschool aged children. Must be 18 years or older. Have excellent organizational skills, the ability to work as a team member, and strong interpersonal skills. Be punctual, responsible and willing and able to work outdoors in all types of weather. Must be willing to work with and mentor a high school junior guide. CPR and First Aid certification or willingness to obtain. Must pass a criminal background check.

**Desirable:**

Bachelor's Degree or formal training in early childhood education, environmental education, ecology, botany, horticulture, biology, or related areas. Experience working with 4-6 year olds, and 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Specific experience working with 4-6 year olds in the outdoors is a plus. A knowledge of environmental activities, lessons, games, projects and stories to bring to the position. Willingness to give feedback in order to help us grow.

**Salary:** \$15.14 / hour

**Department Contact:**

Send questions, resume and cover letter to:

Alicia Blood  
Youth & Family Education Supervisor  
Washington Park Arboretum  
206-616-3381, [alblood@uw.edu](mailto:alblood@uw.edu)

We will review applications in late February and conduct interviews until all positions are filled.