Summer Garden Guide
Preschool Camp

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: 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.

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, 8am-1:30pm (preschool camp runs 9am-1pm). Additional hours available for summer camp clean-up September 6-9.

General Duties: Plan, prepare, and teach age appropriate lessons, activities, games and experiences for the group and weekly theme. Utilize the Arboretum and surrounding resources to create fun and dynamic educational experiences for campers. You and one other Summer Garden Guide will be responsible for a group of up to 14 preschool age campers and one high school assistant.

Essential Tasks:

- Prepare and teach 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
- 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 able and willing 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. 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

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