Fiddleheads Forest School
Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer: Commit to one day (or more!) per week from June 27—August 26 from 8:45am-1:15pm (no school July 4 or the week of July 25)

Internships: We are equipped to support internships. We are happy to help create a specialized internship to suit your needs and interests!

Tucked within the University of Washington Botanic Gardens Programs is the Fiddleheads Forest School an entirely outdoor preschool for students ages three to five. At Fiddleheads, we aim to foster a sense of wonder, to guide rather than compel, and to provide room for possibility rather than attempt to constrain children’s interests to fit within a certain curriculum.

Unlike traditional programs, at the Forest School our classroom grows and changes along with its students. This dynamic environment offers an unparalleled setting for the development of self-regulation and fundamental appreciation for the natural world. Our unique, child-driven curriculum addresses the individual developmental needs of every student. Each day is approached with joy and wonder at the wide world around us.

- Gain experience with early childhood behavior, and physical, emotional and social development. Opportunity to further develop skills in teaching and engaging children outdoors.
- Spend time outside, engaging children with the natural world through art, games, exploration, science, dramatic play and stories

Fiddleheads is participating in a research study to capture the impacts of an entirely outdoor preschool.

Fiddleheads’ directors are part of a national interest group working on projects such as education standards, licensing, networking and professional development.

After a lifetime of confined and structured classrooms, I was utterly and completely stunned by the outdoor model that Fiddleheads provided...I saw students explore, discover, learn, and play in an environment ripe with learning opportunities. Whether we were telling stories on the nurse log, observing baby owls, or examining frozen ponds, Fiddleheads found opportunities for growth in every circumstance. The students took their education into their own hands. At Fiddleheads, I was graced with lessons in compassion, leadership, and the importance of play within a classroom. As I make the transition into a teacher career, I’ve learned to place a great emphasis in student engagement.

- Minh Tran, Forest School Intern

Contact Sarah Heller
ffschool@uw.edu
206-616-5261

Learn more about us at facebook.com/FiddleheadsForestSchool