



Quassapaug Sailing Center

Naturalist Instructor Job Description 2025

Mission

At Camp Sails & Trails, our overall goal is to create an enriching and memorable experience for our campers. We strive to foster an environment that prioritizes safety, fun, and success. Our camp programs are designed to promote personal growth, skill development, and a love for sailing and nature exploration.

Overview

As a Naturalist Instructor, you will guide campers in exploring and understanding the land around Quassapaug Lake, focusing on the Whittemore Sanctuary and its unique wetland habitat. This role is perfect for someone who is passionate about the environment and loves working with children. Your responsibilities will include creating and implementing lesson plans about local ecosystems, plants, animals, and insects, and leading outdoor activities like hiking, animal tracking, and scavenger hunts.

Responsible to: Head Instructor/Camp Director

Qualifications

- Must have a deep passion for the environment and outdoor education.
- Experience or education in environmental science, biology, or a related field is preferred.
- Ability to engage and educate children about nature.
- Strong organizational and planning skills to create effective lesson plans.
- Must have a positive, enthusiastic and flexible attitude.
- Hold a current Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid certification.
- Must have proficient swimming skills and knowledge of water safety.
- Must have excellent communication and leadership abilities.
- Must possess strong problem solving skills and an ability to adapt to changing program needs depending on weather, number of students, etc.

Dates of Employment

Pre-season Staff Meeting: TBD

Training & Setup Period: June 16 - June 20

Camp Start Date: June 23

Work Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Family Day: August 9

Camp End Date: August 15

Cleanup: August 18 - 20

Responsibilities & Expectations

- Develop and deliver engaging lesson plans about the environment, including local flora, fauna, and ecosystems.
- Lead outdoor activities like hiking, animal tracking, scavenger hunts, and fishing, ensuring camper safety and enjoyment.

- Educate campers about the importance of water quality, open space, and responsible land use.
- Foster a sense of curiosity and respect for nature in campers.
- Maintain safety and supervision of campers at all times during outdoor activities.
- Collaborate with other camp staff to integrate environmental education into the broader camp program.
- Display empathy for students, adapting teaching methods to meet individual learning needs and styles.
- Responsible for notifying students about schedule changes and weather postponements. Must keep accurate records of attendance and incidents.
- Assist in the maintenance, care and cleaning of camp equipment, supplies, and grounds before and after classes.
- Have thorough knowledge of and respect for the Center's rules, regulations, and the Risk Management Plan. Must enforce and follow these rules within the Center and lake.
- Proactively engage in and take charge of assigned duties and activities.
- Maintain vigilant supervision of campers, particularly during unstructured periods.
- Arrive punctually, prepared, and enthusiastic about contributing to the camp's success.
- Seek and provide feedback for continuous personal and professional development.
- Attend all staff meetings to remain informed and engaged.
- Participate fully in the five days of staff training in June.
- Use all camp equipment correctly and safely.

Note: This job description highlights key responsibilities and may include other duties as needed for the camp's operations.

Application Process

Interested candidates should send their resumes and a cover letter expressing their passion for environmental education to manager@qsailingcenter.org. We are reviewing applications on a rolling basis.

Questions can be directed to Henry James, 203-893-8722, henryj@qsailingcenter.org.