

New Canaan Nature Center

Lead After School Program Facilitator

About the New Canaan Nature Center and the NCNC After School Program

New Canaan Nature Center is a not-for-profit environmental education center and sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the world of nature. NCNC encompasses a 40-acre preserve in the heart of New Canaan, CT that features diverse habitats including wet and dry meadows and woodlands, two ponds, dense thickets, an old orchard, and a cattail marsh. Two miles of trails meander across the site.

The New Canaan Nature Center After School Program's aim is to get children outside exploring the forests, fields, and ponds of the Nature Center. During this new STEAM program, children will delve into fun and engaging weekly themes as they explore the natural world, learning to hypothesize, and experiment, while enjoying hands-on collaborative activities. Each program (classroom) serves up to 16 children in grades K-1 or 2-4 from the New Canaan Public Schools and includes bus transportation to NCNC from the local elementary schools, snack time, outdoor free play, sustainable STEAM activities, and homework time (if applicable).

Position Summary

Under the supervision of the Senior Naturalist, Lead After School Program Facilitators (LASPFs) are the primary managers of our various groups of After School Program participants. Working with and mentoring our Assistant After School Program Facilitators, these positions are responsible for developing and implementing education curricula and after-school activities to support seasonal program themes and promote the NCNC's mission. LASPFs will also provide assistance and guidance during homework time, but are NOT responsible for the student's academic performance.

Working hours

17.5 -20.5 hours per week

Typically: Monday-Friday, 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm (hours will vary for early dismissal days)

- Winter Session will be January 3 – April 7**
- Spring Session will be April 18 – June 15** *

(**The New Canaan Nature Center After School Program follows the New Canaan Public School calendar. There is no programming on vacation weeks or single-day holidays when the public schools are closed.)

*For Spring 2021, on days when the public schools have early dismissal (June 15), employee hours will be: 12:30-3:30 pm.

Duties

The Lead After School Program Facilitator will report to the Senior Naturalist. Job responsibilities include:

- Create a clean, safe, and healthy learning environment for children in the NCNC After School Program; recognize & appropriately respond to all hazards & emergencies.
- Maintain CT state standards for childhood care centers, assisting with program participant forms & other paperwork, as needed.

- Work with other After School Program Facilitators and members of the Environmental Education team to provide high quality nature-based education experiences to all program participants.
- Work with and mentor Assistant After School Program Facilitators.
- Design, plan, and teach interactive and interdisciplinary After School programming for grade school-aged children that maximizes the use of our NCNC outdoor classroom space.
- Provide enthusiastic and innovative instruction; teach awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural environment through hands-on and inquiry-based methods that encourage exploration.
- Encourage the personal and social development of children.
- Safely lead groups of up to 15 children in an outdoor setting while enacting solid group/behavior management protocols
- Oversee accurate check-in/check-out of program participants; cultivate relationships with After School Program participant families
- Provide support at annual community/special events.
- Participate and contribute in All Staff meetings.
- Additional tasks as assigned by supervisors or Executive Director.

Minimum Skill and Ability Requirements:

- Minimum of a BA/BS in Environmental Education, Biological Sciences, Education, Outdoor Recreation or another related field
- Have at least two years prior experience in education, environmental education, formal and/or informal teaching, camps or similar experience working with children in a responsible and professional setting
- Experience with NGSS, STEAM, curriculum design, and program evaluation preferred
- Sense of humor, flexibility, and creative “think outside the box” solution-based mindset required
- Ability to coordinate, organize/maintain records, and be proactive with all position duties
- Professional communication skills with visitors, volunteers, and the general public
- Possess the physical ability to work actively throughout the property in a variety of weather conditions.
- Hold and maintain throughout the duration of the After School Program valid certification in the following: First Aid/CPR and Epi-pen/Medical Administration. If not current, must be willing to obtain valid certification prior to the start of employment.
- Must be at least 21 years old.

Pay/Compensation

Hourly pay is \$19-25/hour and is commensurate based on experience and qualifications of the candidate. Payroll is paid according to normal payroll practices with employees paid twice a month.

Start date

Mid December 2021

To Apply:

Email cover letter, resume, and the names & contact information of 2 references to Chelsey Hobby, Director of Human Resources, at chobby@newcanaannature.org.