

Education - School Program Lead

Purpose: To provide engaging nature-based talks and activities to students participating in programming with Allan Brooks Nature Centre in order to further promote and encourage learning of nature

About our School Programs:

Our school programs run for ~2.5 hours Monday - Friday in April, May, June, September and October. Group sizes range from 20 - 50 students. On arrival students are broken down into 2 or 4 groups (depending on group size), to make smaller groups of ~10 students. The students then participate in 4 activities and a snack/ lunch break. We will have a staff or volunteer leader for each of the 4 stations. The activities run for ~30 minutes each and the students rotate through the 4 stations. You will be expected to run one of the station activities for 4 - 30 minute intervals. Examples of activity stations include: grassland trail walks, critter dipping at the pond, predators and prey talks, watercolor art, owl pellet dissections etc.

Responsibilities:

- Lead groups of students (ages kindergarten - grade 7) through a 30 minute pre-planned activity
- Present interpretive talks on local wildlife and ecosystems (ie. black bears, marmots, snakes of the okanagan, grasslands, etc.)
- Ensure safety of students during activity
- Share knowledge and passion for nature and the environment with the students
- Assist staff or other volunteers as required
- Track and submit volunteer hours

Qualifications (skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, attitude):

- No previous skills or experience required; just a willingness to learn and share knowledge about local wildlife and ecosystems in this area (all required information will be provided)
- Comfortable speaking to and interacting with children (ages kindergarten - grade 7)
- Comfortable leading a large group through an activity (groups range from 20 - 50 students)
- Willing to learn and share knowledge of the nature in this area
- Positive and enthusiastic attitude

Time commitment:

- School programs run Monday - Friday in April, May, June, September and October
- Programs are 2.5 hours long
- Volunteers who are able to commit to a minimum of 1 day a week are preferred

Training:

- Attend volunteer orientation session
- Training will be provided
- All learning materials will be provided in advance
- Training for this opportunity will be provided by the Education Coordinator/ Lead Nature Interpreter

Work location/conditions: onsite at ABNC and off site field trips (local rivers and Coldstream Park for fall salmon programs)

- Uneven terrain, gravel, and grasslands
- Weather conditions (e.g., rain, heat, wind, etc.)
- Environmental conditions (e.g., smoke)
- Programs run rain or shine

Your needs: dress for the weather, location and activities

Potential Risks: weather and environmental conditions, cactus and other prickly plants, encounters with snakes, spiders and other insects

Immediate Benefits:

- Opportunities to meet and to network with fellow volunteers
- Learn about the history of the region, the geography and the plants and animals of the North Okanagan
- Build on your existing abilities, education and/or public speaking skills
- Satisfaction in knowing that you are making a positive impact by promoting enjoyment of nature and increasing awareness of habitat conservation
- Refreshments and snacks

Benefits After 15 Volunteer Hours:

- ABNC t-shirt
- ABNC membership valued at \$30.00
- 10% discount at ABNC gift shop and ABNC workshops
- Invitation to volunteer appreciation events
- Letter of recommendation