

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Reports to: Associate Director of Conservation for Environmental Education, Conservation Program Director

Dates: May 20 (firm) – August 22 (slightly flexible)

POSITION CONCEPT

Environmental Educators are members of the Philmont team and are directly responsible to the ADC and Coordinator of Environmental Education. Environmental Educators will collaborate with STEM Educators and EE Leadership in designing and implementing Backcountry Environmental Education Programs (BEEP) and all Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education across the Ranch. Environmental Educators will enthusiastically portray all EE and STEM programs across the Ranch and its many departments to staff, visitors, and participants. Environmental Educators are also responsible for giving staff leadership to the Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) Trek and Trail Crew Trek (TCT), two individual trek programs offered through the Conservation Department.

PHILMONT REQUIREMENTS

- Be over 21 years of age
- Ability to hike up to 15 miles a day over rugged, mountainous terrain while carrying a 50 pound backpack.
- Be prepared for strenuous workdays that include hiking and working on rough terrain, in all weather conditions, for 9-12 hours.
- Be prepared to spend up to 21 consecutive nights in undeveloped backcountry campsites.
- Meet the BSA height/weight requirements for high-adventure activities.
- Provide a completed Annual Health and Medical Record upon arrival at Philmont.
- Exemplify the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures described in the Philmont Staff Guidebook and presented during staff training.
- Maintain a clean and approachable look, adhering to the standards for personal appearance described in the Philmont Staff Guidebook.
- Maintain a friendly, helpful, and respectful attitude while providing extraordinary customer service to Philmont’s participants, visitors, and employees.
- Become familiar with all materials supplied prior to the camping season.
- Become familiar with all pertinent Philmont policies and procedures.

DESIRED EXPERIENCE

Environmental Educators need experience working as an informal and formal educator in a wilderness setting. EEs should demonstrate excellent leadership, organization, planning, and conservation work skills. EEs need a good understanding of Philmont’s operations, culture, and staff structure. Formal education in a relevant field, such as a bachelor’s degree in education, recreation, natural resource management, or the natural sciences, is also desired. Typical applicants have at least one year of experience at Philmont, although most have had more. Education and conservation work experience outside of Philmont is also desired.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Establish yourself as a leader within the Environmental Education Program, the Conservation Department, and Philmont Scout Ranch by setting an appropriate example for other staff and participants.
- Be constantly alert to the welfare and safety of scouts, advisors, coworkers, and any other visitors to the ranch. Demonstrate good situational awareness.
- Be an active participant during Conservation Training. Remain engaged, ask questions, and volunteer to help as needed.
- Under the guidance of the ADC-EE and EE Coordinator, establish a set of performance goals for the summer.
- Greet and prepare arriving ROCS and STEM crews for their trek. Guide them through Base Camp with stops at places such as Registration, Medical Recheck, Outfitting Services, and Dining Hall meals.
- Serve with a partner as an adult leader for ROCS and STEM Treks. This includes itinerary planning, logistical needs for buses and food, and resource drops for teaching lessons. All responsibility for trek planning and readiness is with Instructors assigned to each session. From the time crew youth are present in base camp to the time they check out and depart, educators will be adult leadership and know whereabouts of crew youth at all times.
- Conduct a shakedown of all personal and crew equipment to ensure the crew's readiness to hit the trail.
- Throughout your time with your crew, develop leadership skills in all participants.
- Consistently communicate with your partner to establish and maintain an equal distribution of worksite and trek responsibilities.
- While in the backcountry, educate the crew on topics such as navigation, hiking etiquette, campsite setup, personal sanitation practices, bear and wildlife procedures, cooking skills, Philmont history, backcountry time management, and general trek planning skills.
- Become an expert in safe and proper use of provided hand and power tools.
- Properly maintain your crew's tools and equipment to the standards of the Philmont Conservation Department and maintain a clean and organized tool cache.
- Maintain clean and organized campsites while deployed in the backcountry, following the procedures in the Ranger Field book and Conservation Department Manual.
- Become an expert in the projects you facilitate. Learn the science and engineering principles underlying your work and communicate them to others clearly.
- Know and teach the appropriate safety measures to your crew, including the use of personal protective equipment and safe working practices.
- While with your crew, pass on information about wilderness stewardship and outdoor ethics using the Philmont Wilderness Pledge as well as personal stories and insights.
- Be able to effectively facilitate discussions lessons of the ROCS and STEM Treks
- Debrief with Environmental Education Leadership after completion of each trek session.
- Complete all required paperwork and documentation in a timely fashion including but not limited to; commissary orders, worksite logs, and participant evaluations.
- Promote Conservation and Philmont indivual treks throughout the summer.
- Enthusiastically carry out the mission of Philmont Scout Ranch by completing other duties as assigned by any member of the Conservation Leadership Team or other Philmont Managers.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental Educators complete specialized training in the policies and practices of Philmont Scout Ranch and the Environmental Education Programs. Topics include crew leadership, group discussion facilitation, trek planning, and program implementation. Environmental Educators also complete eight days of Conservation Department Training. Opportunities may arise throughout the summer for on-the-job training in chainsaw operation or other advanced skills.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Philmont Scout Ranch: <http://philmontscoutranch.org/philmont.aspx>

Seasonal Employment Opportunities: <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Jobs.aspx>

Individual Treks: <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Camping/IndividualPrograms.aspx>

Conservation: <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/Resources/Conservation.aspx>

For questions about this position and other conservation job opportunities, contact:

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