

Wynn Naturalist (Summer 2021)

Impart curiosity, knowledge, and a sense of stewardship with visitors and groups from around the world as they visit the Carl E. Wynn Nature Center (WNC), a 145-acre boreal forest preserve. The **Wynn Naturalist** will lead interpretive natural history hikes and activities for small but varied groups of visitors. Possibilities exist to also lead guided hikes on the nearby Inspiration Ridge Preserve (IRP), a 693-acre wildlife habitat preserve, located 1.5 miles from the WNC. This person will also develop and lead educational programs for children of all ages. They will share news from WNC and IRP through blogging and social media and have opportunities to participate in community based monitoring projects such as weather monitoring, bird song checklists, and phenology studies. They will participate in peer-to-peer feedback for other naturalists and interns and perform routine maintenance of facilities and trails. This person will work alongside the Wynn Coordinator, CACS Program Director, and other naturalist educators to learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based interpretation and education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology. The Carl E. Wynn Nature Center features 5 miles of trails through the boreal forest, wildflower meadows, and willow-edge habitat, as well as access to peatlands (bog/muskeg), a community garden, a small interpretive cabin, and a new visitor center. Inspiration Ridge Preserve is a mosaic of forests, bogs, meadows, ponds, and creeks with over 8 miles of trails.



Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with youth and adults in outdoor settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, and inclusive learning experiences for youth, families, and adults.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment. Comfort living and working in a semi-remote location.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about forest ecology, botany and human uses of plants.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and make people feel welcome.
- Commitment to CACS's work towards justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our programs.
- Dedication to our vision of healthy ecosystems, engaged and connected communities, and inspired environmental stewards.
- Ability to receive and give direction and feedback on a variety of topics.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging settings, including first aid and CPR certification.

Core Duties:

- Plan and lead engaging and informative guided walks for adults and families. Adjust each guided walk to fit the interests, needs, abilities, and energy-level of the group and the day's weather.
- Prepare and lead educational programs for a variety of kids groups and programs, including an emphasis on science, nature observation, wildlife, story-hour, art, and crafts. Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive environment for all youth participants. Work cooperatively with parents/guardians and other CACS staff and volunteers to provide high-quality experiences for participants. Administer basic first aid.
- Create and update interpretive materials for use at the Wynn Cabin, visitor center, and on trail.
- Greet visitors, orient them to the facility and trails, collect entry fees, answer questions, and sell promotional items.
- Assist in mentoring of CACS college and high school interns, including shadowing programs and providing peer-to-peer feedback.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with planting, weeding, and watering in the Wynn People's Garden, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Inspiration Ridge Preserve and Wynn Nature Center, including trail clearing and maintenance of the outhouses and composting toilets.
- Provide photos for social media and advertising, conduct participant evaluations of programs, and complete basic office tasks such as program data entry.

Equal Opportunity Employer & Equity Statement

The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies recruits, employs, trains, compensates and promotes regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, class, veteran status and other protected status as required by law.

We recognize that the field of environmental education has long excluded Black, Indigenous, and people of color as well as people from working class backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. We also recognize that environmental injustice and climate change disproportionately impact the most marginalized people in society- including people of color, Indigenous people, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ+ people. We believe that these communities must be centered in the work we do and that environmental education will be stronger and richer with more diverse perspectives.

Hence, we strongly encourage people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities to apply for positions with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. You are encouraged to self-identify in your cover letter, if you feel comfortable doing so. Please contact Katie Gavenus (katieg@akcoastalstudies.org, 907-235-1974 with any questions or concerns.

Position runs from May 31 - September 6, 2021 (end date flexible). \$12-\$13/hour DOE + housing is provided

Full-Time and Half-Time Positions Available

To Apply: Please submit a **cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references** to jobs@akcoastalstudies.org by January 18, 2021.

In your 1-page cover letter, please explain why you are interested in this position and describe the relevant work, academic, and/or life experience that you will bring to this position. Please indicate in both the cover letter and email subject line the position for which you are applying.