

Day Camp Educator (Summer 2023)

Help kids from Homer and beyond connect with the ecosystems of Kachemak Bay, become better stewards, and develop a love for the natural world. **Educators** for the summer **Day Camp** will work with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACs) Day Camp, which is based out of Homer. Participants in this camp are 6-10 years old, with occasional older junior counselors included too. Each week of day camp (Monday-Thursday) features a different theme, such as “Wildlife,” “Water,” and “Bugs and Flowers.” Day Camp starts and ends each day at the CACS Headquarters building in downtown Homer, but most activities take place at the Wynn Nature Center, Homer Harbor/Spit, Beluga Slough Wetlands, Bishop’s Beach, local trails, and other field sites that align with the weekly theme (such as farms, rivers, etc.)

The Day Camp educators will interact directly with participants, leading and co-leading fun and educational activities at various locations throughout Homer. Educators are responsible for working closely with each other and with the Day Camp Coordinator to plan and lead games, activities, and crafts that are relevant to the weekly topic. Day Camp activities are well-developed, but provide ample opportunities for creativity and flexibility.



Training & Mentorship

- Participate in paid master naturalist training at the Peterson Bay Field Station at the start of the summer, which will include training on natural sciences, Alaska Native cultures, and nature interpretation.
- Opportunities throughout the summer for paid professional development.

Core Duties

- Plan and lead fun and educational activities for day camp participants, including an emphasis on weekly themes.
- Work with other Day Camp Educators and the Day Camp Coordinator to create a weekly schedule that includes a balanced mix of games, guided exploration, directed activities, art, crafts, guest speakers, and free exploration time.
- 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. Set behavior expectations and work with participants to redirect behavior as necessary.
- Model positive interactions with human communities and the natural world, lead planned stewardship activities, and use ‘teachable moments’ to communicate the importance of stewardship and respect.
- Assist with transportation of the group in 12-passenger and/or 15-passenger vans.
- Maintain CACS program supplies and perform daily/weekly cleaning of the Day Camp room and vans used for transportation.
- Provide photos for social media and advertising, conduct participant evaluations of programs, and complete basic administrative tasks such as collection of forms, taking of attendance, and program data entry.

Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, patience and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with children in outdoor settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, fun, and inclusive learning experiences for children.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment. Comfort living in shared housing with co-workers.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, group needs, etc.)
- Familiarity with or interest in learning more about the nature of coastal Alaska.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate science concepts to children, and make children 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.

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 29 – August 18, 2023. \$13.50-14.50/hour DOE + housing is provided

To Apply: Please submit a **cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references** to jobs@akcoastalstudies.org by January 11, 2023.

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.