

Inspiration Ridge Preserve Naturalist (Summer 2023)

Located on the ridge overlooking Kachemak Bay, Inspiration Ridge Preserve is a mosaic of forests, bogs, meadows, ponds, and creeks, with over 8 miles of trails. The IRP Naturalist will lead interpretive natural history hikes and workshops for small but varied groups of visitors, as well as conducting scientific monitoring, program planning, and trail maintenance. Applicants can expect to split their time fairly evenly between outdoor work (leading hikes/workshops, data collection, trail maintenance) and indoor computer work (program prep, database management, social media).

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.
- Gain hands-on experience in environmental education and scientific monitoring with support and mentorship from the IRP Coordinator.
- Opportunities throughout the summer for paid professional development.



Core duties:

- Plan and lead guided hikes, ranging from 1.5 to 3 hours, for a range of group sizes and ages. Frequency of hikes varies, with an average of two guided hikes per week.
- Develop biweekly or weekly educational workshops and activities for adults and youth with the support of the IRP Coordinator.
- Conduct monitoring of wildlife and invasive species, which includes hiking, operating motion-triggered wildlife cameras, properly identifying plants/wildlife/scat/tracks (training provided), and recording observations in a computer database.
- Create and update interpretive and educational materials.
- Trail maintenance & invasive species removal. This can involve hiking for up to 5 miles carrying weed whips and other equipment.

Qualifications

- Self-starter, organized, ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Experience working with youth and adults in outdoor settings.
- Experience or interest in conducting scientific research.
- Comfort working, hiking, and living in a semi-remote location.
- Physical ability to hike up to 5 miles carrying up to 30 pounds of equipment.

- Knowledge of or strong interest in forest ecology, botany, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and human uses of plants.
- Knowledge of or strong interest in Alaska Native cultures, particularly Dena'ina and Sugpiaq/Alutiiq ethnobotany and land stewardship.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, group needs, etc.)
- 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.
- Demonstrated good judgment and experience with risk management in challenging backcountry settings, including first aid and CPR certification (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder 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 - September 4, 2023. \$13.50-\$14.50/hour DOE with shared housing provided (valued at over \$350/month).

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.