

Marine Educator (Summer 2023)

Ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and impart a sense of connection and stewardship for visitors, youth groups, and local families. The Marine Educator will work out of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' Yurt at the Homer Harbor, with easy access to the harbor docks and the fascinating and often-overlooked creatures that call it home. The Marine Educator will lead 3-4 hour, boat-based Ocean Connection Tours. Ocean Connection tours include seabird viewing, collection of plankton samples and basic oceanographic data, and a visit to a local oyster farm. These tours are offered a few times per week, for groups of 4-12 people. The Marine Educator will also lead 60-90 minute Creatures of the Dock Tours in the Homer Harbor. During these daily tours, guests are guided in hands-on exploration of the unique invertebrates and fish that live on and around the sides of the floating dock. Participants in Creatures of the Dock Tours range from families with young children to senior citizens. Dock Tour activities are well-developed, but provide ample opportunities for creativity and flexibility. The Marine Educator will also greet visitors, answer questions, help them to book programs, and encourage people to explore Kachemak Bay by participating in tours, activities, and events with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACs) or partner organizations. Some opportunities to assist with the youth programs based out of the Yurt at the Homer Harbor may also be available, depending upon work schedule.



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 engaging and informative Ocean Connection Tours for adults and families. Communicate clearly with boat captains, oyster farmers, Peterson Bay Field Station staff, and guests to build the schedule for each tour.
- Plan and lead Creatures of the Dock Tours for adults, youth, and families. Adjust each tour to fit the interests, needs, abilities, and energy-level of the group and the day's weather.
- Greet visitors, introduce them to our organization, collect tour and program fees, answer questions and sell promotional items.
- Ensure safety of visitors of all ages while on tours and set group guidelines that are respectful of the other individuals working at the Homer Harbor.
- Assist with youth programs as scheduled, including SPIT Kids and CACS Day Camp (both ages 6-10) and Creatures of the Dock Tours or Ocean Connection trips for organized youth groups such as Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.
- 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.

- Maintain CACS program supplies and perform daily/weekly cleaning of the Yurt.
- 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 and adults in outdoor settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, fun, and inclusive learning experiences for children, families, and adults.
- 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.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal and marine ecology and history and culture of the Homer area.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to communicate clearly with co-workers and maintain respectful and open communication with parents/guardians, as well provide concise and easy-to-follow directions for kids, communicate science concepts in an age-appropriate way, and make children and adults feel welcome.
- Commitment to CACS's work towards justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our programs, and 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 – September 4, 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.