

Yurt Environmental Educator (Summer 2022)



Help kids and adults from Homer and beyond explore marine and coastal ecosystems of Kachemak Bay, become better stewards, and develop a love for the natural world. The **Yurt Environmental Educator** will work out of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' Yurt at the Homer Harbor, with easy access to sandy beaches, the harbor docks, and some rocky areas good for intertidal exploration during low tides. The Educator will have two main areas of focus: planning and leading SPIT Kids youth programs and leading Daily Creatures of the Dock Tours for families and adults. Participants in SPIT Kids are 6-10 years old, and the outdoor exploration-focused program runs in the mornings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Educator will also lead 1-hour Creatures of the

Dock Tours in the Homer Harbor, where guests are guided in hands-on exploration of the unique invertebrates and fish that live on and around the sides of the floating dock. SPIT Kids and Dock Tour activities are well-developed, but provide ample opportunities for creativity and flexibility.

Position may also have opportunities to take on additional responsibilities related to supervising and mentoring a Yurt team of 1-3 educators, interns, and/or volunteers. This could include creating staff schedules to meet the daily needs of the Yurt and providing feedback to team-members. Exact role will depend on qualifications and interest of applicants.

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.
- 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 fun and educational art, science, and nature observation activities for SPIT Kids participants.
- Plan and lead engaging and informative Creatures of the Dock Tours for adults and families. Adjust each tour to fit the interests, needs, abilities, and energy-level of the group and the day's weather.
- Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive environment for all participants in SPIT Kids. 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.
- Serve as point of contact for parents/guardians and work closely with Yurt team, CACS Program Director, CACS Executive Director, and/or CACS Bookkeeper to address any special challenges or needs that may arise.
- 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.
- Greet visitors, introduce them to our organization, collect tour and program fees, answer questions, and sell promotional items.
- 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.

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 30 – September 5, 2022 (end date flexible)

\$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 24, 2022.

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.