

## Yurt Naturalist 2023 (Part-Time Position)

Ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and impart a sense of connection and stewardship for visitors, youth groups, and local families. The **Yurt Naturalist** 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 Naturalist will lead 60-90 minute 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. 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 Yurt Naturalist 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. **This part-time position does include working Saturdays & Sundays.**

### 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 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.
- 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 in the Homer Harbor.
- Assist with youth programs as scheduled, including SPIT Kids (for ages 6-10) and CACS Day Camp (also ages 6-10) and Dock Tours for organized youth groups like the Boys & Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, 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 families and adults in outdoor settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, fun, and inclusive learning experiences for 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 provide concise and easy-to-follow directions, communicate science concepts in an age-appropriate way, and make people 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](mailto:katieg@akcoastalstudies.org), 907-235-1974) with any questions or concerns.

**Part-Time position runs from May 29 – September 4, 2021 (end date flexible).**

**\$12.50-13.50/hour DOE + housing is provided if needed**

To Apply: Please submit **a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references** to [jobs@akcoastalstudies.org](mailto: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.