

Lead Environmental Educator - Peterson Bay Field Station (Summer 2021)

Help youth from throughout Alaska and the country connect with the unique ecosystems of Kachemak Bay, become better stewards, and develop a love for science and the natural world. The **Lead Environmental Educator (Summer)** will work primarily with organizing, planning, and leading Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACCS) overnight camps. Each camp has a specific theme (marine mammals, environmental change, nature exploration). Camps focus on a local audience of youth but do also draw in youth from other parts of Alaska and out of state. Participant ages range from 9-18 depending on the camp; some



families with younger children participate in Family Camps. The Lead Environmental Educator will also assist with other overnight, educational student programs at the Peterson Bay Field Station for middle, high, and college-age students. They will help with training and coaching of interns and volunteers and perform routine maintenance of remote facilities and trails. This person will work alongside the Peterson Bay Field Station Coordinator, CACCS Program Director, and other naturalist educators to learn together about best practices in experiential, place-based education and to gain knowledge of Alaskan coastal ecology. Field sites feature rocky intertidal areas of outstanding diversity, a coastal forest trail system, and salt and freshwater wetlands.

Qualifications

- Creativity, curiosity, compassion, and enthusiasm.
- Experience or demonstrated desire to work with youth in outdoor settings.
- Commitment to facilitating experiential, place-based, and inclusive learning experiences for youth, families, and young adults.
- Ability to work in a highly collaborative work environment and live and work in a semi-remote location with visiting groups and other naturalists. Comfort with camping with youth in wilderness settings.
- Willingness to learn on the job and to adjust and adapt readily to changing circumstances (such as weather, boat scheduling, group needs, etc.)
- Knowledge of or strong interest in learning more about basic intertidal, marine, and forest ecology.
- Strong communication skills, with the ability to provide clear, concise directions, communicate complex science concepts, and facilitate reflective discussion.
- Commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in environmental education and willingness to understand race, class, gender, and other equity issues to create more inclusive camp 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 (with preference for Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification).

Core Duties:

- Act as coordinator for all CACS camps offered. Some occur at the Peterson Bay Field Station, the Wynn Nature Center and various locations around Kachemak Bay. Camps range from 3-10 days in duration.
- Refine existing curriculum and implement activities for each camp, arrange for guest speakers, coordinate and confirm boat transportation, plan and prepare for meals, chaperone participants, organize and prepare supplies, document the camp experience through photos/video, and submit written feedback on the camp experience.
- Communicate via e-mail or phone with participants and parents/guardians before the camp to help them prepare for the experience.
- Assist with overnight (2-7 days) coastal ecology and service learning programs for classes (middle school - undergrad), youth groups, and families at the semi-remote Peterson Bay Field Station.
- Lead coastal ecology environmental education activities such as tide pooling, forest ecology hikes, plankton tow, microscope lab, water quality monitoring, geology, Alaska Native history & culture, and climate change investigations.
- Facilitate evening activities for youth groups, including campfires, games, and beach walks. Model stewardship actions and facilitate stewardship activities.
- Develop and ensure a safe, fun, and positive environment for all youth participants. Work cooperatively with other CACS staff and volunteers to provide high-quality experiences for participants and proactively and positively address behavior challenges as they emerge. Administer basic first aid and comfort homesick or otherwise upset participants.
- Facilitate group transitions to and from the Homer Harbor, orient groups to the Peterson Bay Field Station, and assist with transport of gear, food, and bedding between the CACS office (in Homer) and the Peterson Bay Field Station.
- Assist in mentoring of CACS Naturalist Interns, including shadowing programs and providing constructive criticism.
- Maintain CACS program supplies, assist with upkeep of intertidal touch tanks, and perform routine facility and trail maintenance at the Peterson Bay Field Station, including trail clearing, troubleshooting water system problems, and maintenance of the composting toilets.
- Provide photos for social media and advertising, conduct participant evaluations of programs, and complete basic office tasks such as 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 31 – September 6, 2021. \$12-\$13/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 18, 2021.

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.