

**ROWAN COUNTY
HUMAN RESOURCES**

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title : Education Naturalist
Department: Parks
Revised : August 2022

Class : Paraprofessional
FLSA : Non-exempt

This job description supersedes any prior description for the Assistant Naturalist classification.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Paraprofessional work providing educational programming to the public, both on-site and off-site. Participates in local events to promote Rowan Wild and its mission. Aids in husbandry of resident animal collection, grounds maintenance and facility upkeep within Rowan Wild, as needed. Provides customer service for visitors. Provides information/resources regarding wildlife observations or concerns to the public as needed. Supervision is received from the Nature Center Supervisor, who reviews work through observation and periodic conferences.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Any one position may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in positions of this class.)

Plans, designs, and presents educational programs on a variety of nature topics, including animal life talks, nature trail interpretive walks, narrated slide programs, plant and insect identification, pond and plant ecology, film programs, and static exhibits. Provides offsite programs as requested to schools, civic groups, and County agencies.

Designs displays for Rowan Wild on a variety of natural history topics; research topics, determines the essential information to communicate and the visual support needed to emphasize the topic, and acquires or constructs the display.

Prepares a variety of posters for public information; maintains information boards.

Represents/participates in local events to promote Rowan Wild and its mission

Develops new nature science educational opportunities for visitors, regular scheduled programs, and through outreach programs at schools, retirement homes, and other Rowan County community opportunities.

Provides customer service to park visitors, including park information, directions, ticket sales, etc.

Provides information/resources to the public concerning injured/orphaned wildlife or other wildlife observations/concerns on or off site.

Organizes and trains part-time and volunteers to assist with educational programming.

Assist with Parks & Recreation hosted events.

Aids, as needed, with daily care and miscellaneous husbandry for the resident animal collections at Rowan Wild, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Husbandry includes cleaning, feeding, medical treatment (advised by veterinarian), enrichment, operant conditioning training, record keeping, etc.

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Assist with marketing, promotions and other web-based information relevant to Rowan Wild.

OTHER JOB FUNCTIONS

Prepares a variety of records, maintains a variety of reports.

Performs related duties as required.

Management reserves the right to add or amend duties at any time.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of environmental education topics.

Knowledge of North Carolina academic standards, in reference to program offerings.

Knowledge of the care, handling, and feeding of various species in the resident animal collection at Rowan Wild, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Considerable knowledge of the construction, repair and maintenance of Nature Center related facilities.

Skill in the operation of tools and equipment utilized in carpentry, plumbing, and basic electrical work.

Considerable knowledge of various computer software programs for use in designing, creating, and presenting educational programs.

Ability to speak in public regarding a variety of nature programs and topics.

Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and the public.

Ability to walk, stoop, bend, and lift weights in excess of 50 lbs.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Work in this class will include sitting, walking, bending, stooping, and lifting weights of approximately 50 lbs or less unassisted and weights over 50 lbs with assistance. Work will include both indoor and outdoor activity where employee is exposed to elements of nature: cold, hot, rain, snow, sleet, ice, etc. Employee must be able to maneuver in tight places such as the crawl space under a building, climb ladders, step over obstacles, step on and off machinery, etc. Work may include operation of a motor vehicle. Employee may be exposed to hazardous materials.

EXPOSURE CONTROL

Work activity is normally performed without blood or body fluid exposure, but exposure may occur in an emergency. Personal protective equipment should be available and used if an emergency arises.

Participation in zoonotic prevention program is required.

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MINIMUM EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Associate's Degree from an accredited college or university in Wildlife Science, Natural Science, Biology, Zoology, or Environmental Education and some experience in the area of animal husbandry, animal care and handling, or a related field; or equivalent combination of training and experience. A valid driver's license is required. N.C. Environmental Educator Certification is preferred.

**This job description does not create an employment contract,
implied or otherwise.**