

Job Title: Explorers Educator

Blue Sky Fund is a local Richmond non-profit based in Church Hill. Our mission is to provide transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education. We have two core program areas – academic and adventure. We are currently seeking several part-time Educators to facilitate and lead our Explorers Program during the 2018-2019 school year. For a more detailed description of our core programs, please visit our website www.blueskyfund.org.

Explorers is an experiential education program through which we partner with 2nd -5th grade classrooms in the Richmond Public School (RPS) system. Each partner school participates in seven-eight monthly field trips in the Richmond area; these trips incorporate team-building activities designed to build/help students recognize resilience skills, experiential lessons correlated with Virginia Standards of Learning, and nature exploration. As a part of the Explorers program, Educators will gain professional experience in outdoor environmental education. Each Educator will receive training in the mission and role of Blue Sky Fund, environmental communication, group management, team-building facilitation, and Virginia natural history. Educators will be trained to lead a group of students during our Explorers field trips and they will facilitate activities and teach scientific principles while fostering a positive learning environment. Educators will serve on either 2nd and 3rd grade teams or 4th and 5th grade teams of other Educators. Further opportunities for training, skill development, and local networking will be available based on each Educator's interests and Blue Sky Fund's needs.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of two years of college-level study or equivalent experience is preferred.
- Academic training in natural resources, natural science (geology, biology), environmental science, education, recreation or a related field is advantageous.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a strong natural history background, experience with teaching or youth leadership, excellent leadership and communication skills, and demonstrated interest in environmental education
- Optional: CDL-P (passenger endorsement) certification or willingness to be trained for CDL-P certification and clean driving record

Educator Benefits:

- Training in environmental communication, group management, and outdoor/experiential education best practices
- Education in Virginia natural history, Richmond history, and Richmond socioeconomics
- Opportunity to network within the local Richmond nonprofit community
- Frequent peer and employer evaluations
- Positive work environment and engagement in the local community

Educator Responsibilities

- Complete Educator orientation: introduction to the job, experiential and environmental education philosophy and techniques, safety, and emergency procedures
- Attend all training sessions and Blue Sky Explorers field trips (must provide own

- transportation)
- Study and practice field trip material
 - Lead and teach a group of students during each Explorers field trip (either groups of 2nd and 3rd grade students or 4th and 5th grade students)
 - Participate in physical activities during field trips such as (but not limited to): hiking, lifting, playing games and sports
 - Represent Blue Sky Fund in a professional manner at all times, specifically acting as a positive role model for the students with whom we interact.

Commitment/Compensation

Training and programming runs from September 4, 2018 through mid-May 2019 with a break in December. Time frame is generally 9 AM – 1:30 PM Tuesday thru Friday, with occasional Mondays (potential for some longer trips in spring 2019).

Educators are compensated at a rate of \$12/hour for approximately 18-23 hours/week.

To Apply:

Please email a resume, a cover letter or personal statement explaining why you are interested in and qualified for this opportunity, and contact information for three professional references to:

Tanesha Powell, Academic Program Manager, tanisha@blueskyfund.org

Please indicate in application if you currently have a CDL-P or are interested in obtaining a CDL-P.