

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR PROGRAM



**Hands-on training in outdoor, environmental education
while serving Richmond's urban youth**

Blue Sky Fund [www.blueskyfund.org] is on a mission to create transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education. We strive to give young people the opportunity to actively engage in the natural world and respond with excellence.

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 to standardized tests, 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, demonstrated interest in environmental education. We expect Educators to have a professional attitude and exemplify the standards of Blue Sky Fund.

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)
- 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 5th through mid-May, with a break in December. Time frame is generally 9 AM – 1:30 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays (there may be some longer field trips in the Spring). Educators are compensated at a rate of \$10/hour for approximately 18 hours/week.

To Apply:

Please include 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.

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Subject: Explorers Educator Application
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