



CENTRAL WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL STATION

COUNSELOR NATURALIST JOB DESCRIPTION – SUMMER 2022

The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station is a field station supported by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources and the UW-SP Foundation, Inc. The Station is operated year-round by permanent staff and university students as an environmental education center for people of all ages. The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station is an equal opportunity employer.

Description:

Summer Camps: The primary responsibility for Naturalists will be supporting summer camps at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station (CWES). Naturalists will serve as educators, caretakers, and mentors for all camp participants. CWES will offer:

- Residential Summer Camps: Camp themes range from Early Explorers (a shortened week designed for younger campers to discover nature) to Outdoor Leaders (a camp for high schoolers to explore various career paths in the environmental field).
- Day Camp: Participants for these camps will spend time at CWES, participating in a range of camp and nature-based activities.
- Contract and Specialty Camps: CWES will host multiple groups for camp during the summer. These groups come with their own leadership. Our staff will facilitate programs and activities based on the group's needs.

Sunset Lake Conservation Program: Began in 2021, our primary focus is removal of Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic invasive plant, from Sunset Lake. Naturalists will be trained to identify and remove invasives, will facilitate weekly removal efforts with community volunteers, and will record data for our community science project.

Responsibilities:

For all camps, staff responsibilities include:

- Presenting environmental educational programs and leading games and activities (such as archery, boating, campfire programs, etc.), as well as participating in staff meetings
- Assisting with setting up and maintenance of equipment and locations on site
- Always knowing the location of all campers and ensuring the safety of participants
- Utilizing appropriate behavior management techniques as trained or seeking guidance from supervisors when unsure how to proceed
- Facilitating check in/check out, meals, and other relevant procedures
- Maintaining communication with all other staff members
- Living in a cabin with campers when assigned to do so. This involves ensuring the campers are prepared in the morning, that lights-out is enforced, that they are cared for overnight, and includes fostering a positive group dynamic as well as addressing the needs of the individual
- Participating in the Sunset Lake Conservation Project. Facilitating weekly removal of invasive plants (not exclusively Eurasian milfoil) in Sunset Lake and on the grounds
- Assisting in camp projects as needed.

Staff will rotate responsibilities throughout the summer, ensuring that all staff participate in all programs.

Accommodations:

When Naturalists are assigned to a cabin during a residential summer camp, they will spend the night in the cabin with their campers. During other times, Naturalists will be provided shared, staff housing on-site. Shared restrooms, showers, wi-fi, and laundry facilities are also provided. When programs are in session, all staff will receive free meals from the dining hall.

Staff are welcome to utilize CWES's outdoor equipment and facilities (such as kayaks and canoes, the archery range, or fire pits) during their time off, provided they are not needed for programming purposes.

Schedule:

Employment begins June 5 and ends on August 19. Training will be offered for all staff from June 5-10 and June 13-16.

Weekly workload will vary yet responsibilities will be rotated throughout the summer to distribute the workload fairly. Naturalists will receive an average of 3 hours off daily when camp is in session. **All staff will be off July 2-5.**

Compensation:

- \$300/week without lifeguard certification
- \$325/week with lifeguard certification
- Reimbursement for required training
- Lodging
- Meals
- Access to outdoor equipment

Qualifications:

- Requirements:
 - 18 years of age
 - Must successfully pass a background and reference check
 - CPR/AED and First Aid certification, or ability to obtain certification prior to employment
 - Wisconsin Boater Safety certification, or ability to obtain certification prior to employment
 - Capable of effective, appropriate, and sustained mental, emotional, and social interaction while working in camp's fast-paced, youth-centered and changing environment
 - Capable of adapting to changing needs/environment, independent problem solving, and clear communication with campers/staff/community members
 - Capable of living on-site at CWES and working a flexible schedule throughout the summer
- Qualifications:
 - Training, experience, or significant interest in the area of natural resources/outdoor skills
 - Training, experience, or significant interest in delivering educational programs
 - Training, experience, or significant interest in working with youth
- Preferred Qualifications:
 - Prior experience with summer camp programming
 - Familiarity with (or ability to learn) Wisconsin natural resources
 - Lifeguard certification (**not required, but higher pay for lifeguard certified Naturalists**)

Application Information:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, and contact information for 3 references to Sam DeRoche. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and interviews will be conducted as applications are received. The final deadline for applications is April 17, 2022.

Employment Contact:

Program Manager: Sam DeRoche

Central Wisconsin Environmental Station

10186 County Road MM

Amherst Junction, WI 54407

Telephone: 715-346-2798

Email: sderoche@uwsp.edu

Website: www.uwsp.edu/cwes